

# The Spatial Analysis of Health Data & the Development of High Priority Target Areas

August 15, 2008

**Virginia Department of Health  
Office of Minority Health and Public Health Policy**

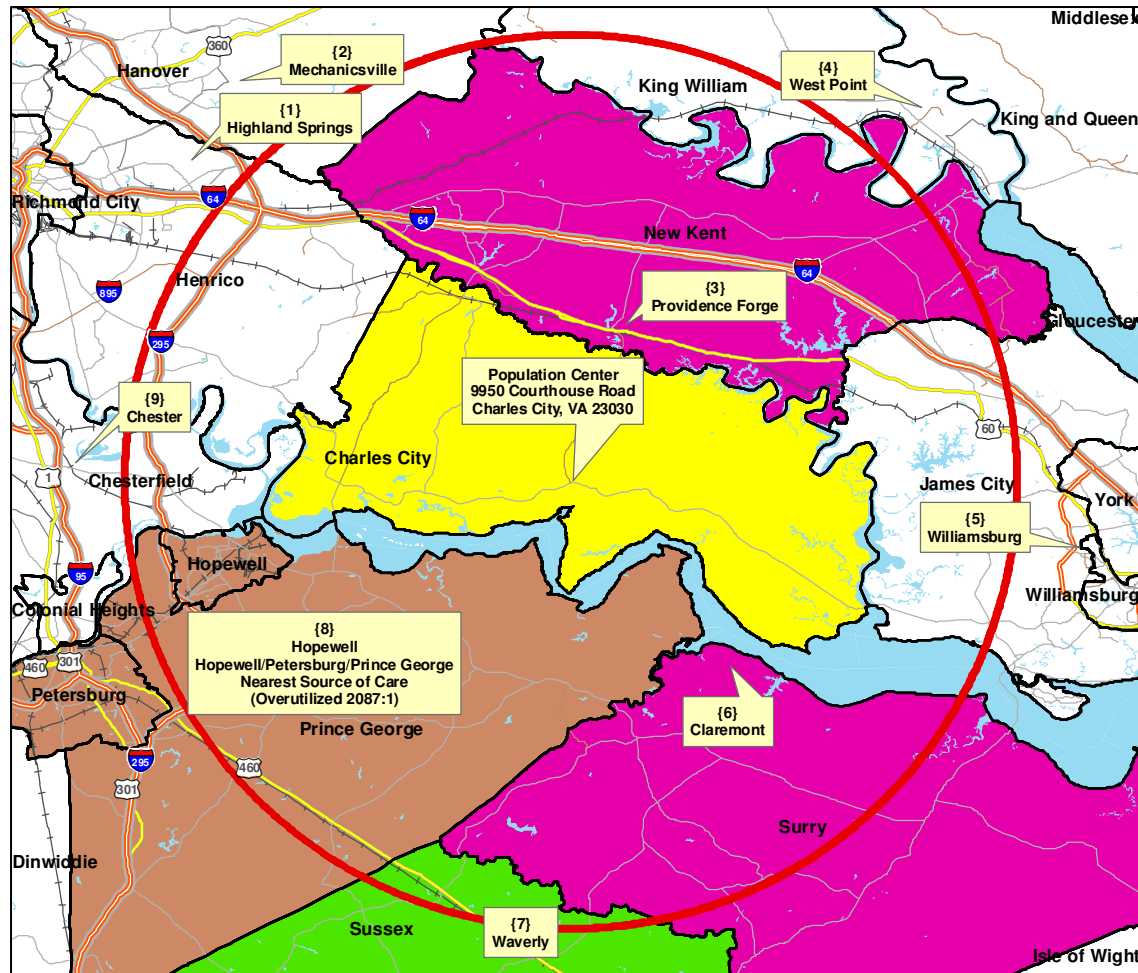
**Ken Studer, PhD  
Jamie Zakkak, MPH**

# Overview

- Designations & the Targeting of Need
  - Examples (3)
  - HRSA Proposed Designation Criteria
- Multi-Level Analysis & Reframing the Question
  - County, Census Tract, Block Group, Community
  - Examples of High Priority Target Areas
- Analysis of Spatially Referenced Data
  - Levels of Aggregation
  - “Persistency” as a Social Variable
  - Locational Analysis
  - Various Service Area Analyses

# Designations & Targeting Areas of Need

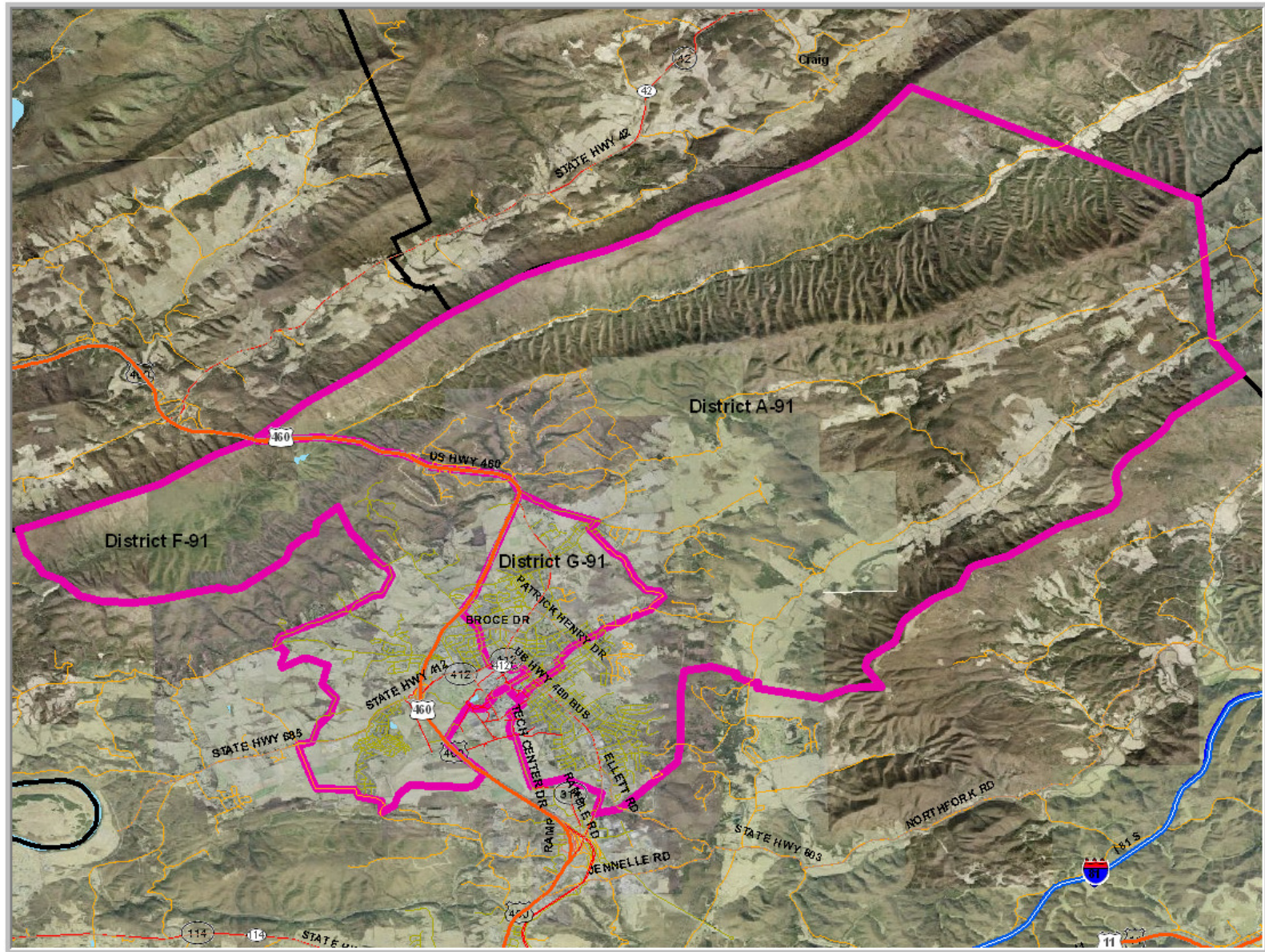
# Charles City County and Contiguous Areas\*



\*Yellow = Rational Service Area  
Purple = Designated Geographic Primary Care HPSA  
Tan = Overutilized area



# Montgomery County MUA Designation: 3 Minor Civil Divisions

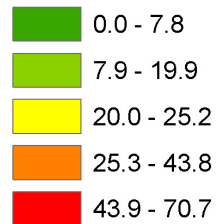




# NORFOLK, VA

## Race and Poverty

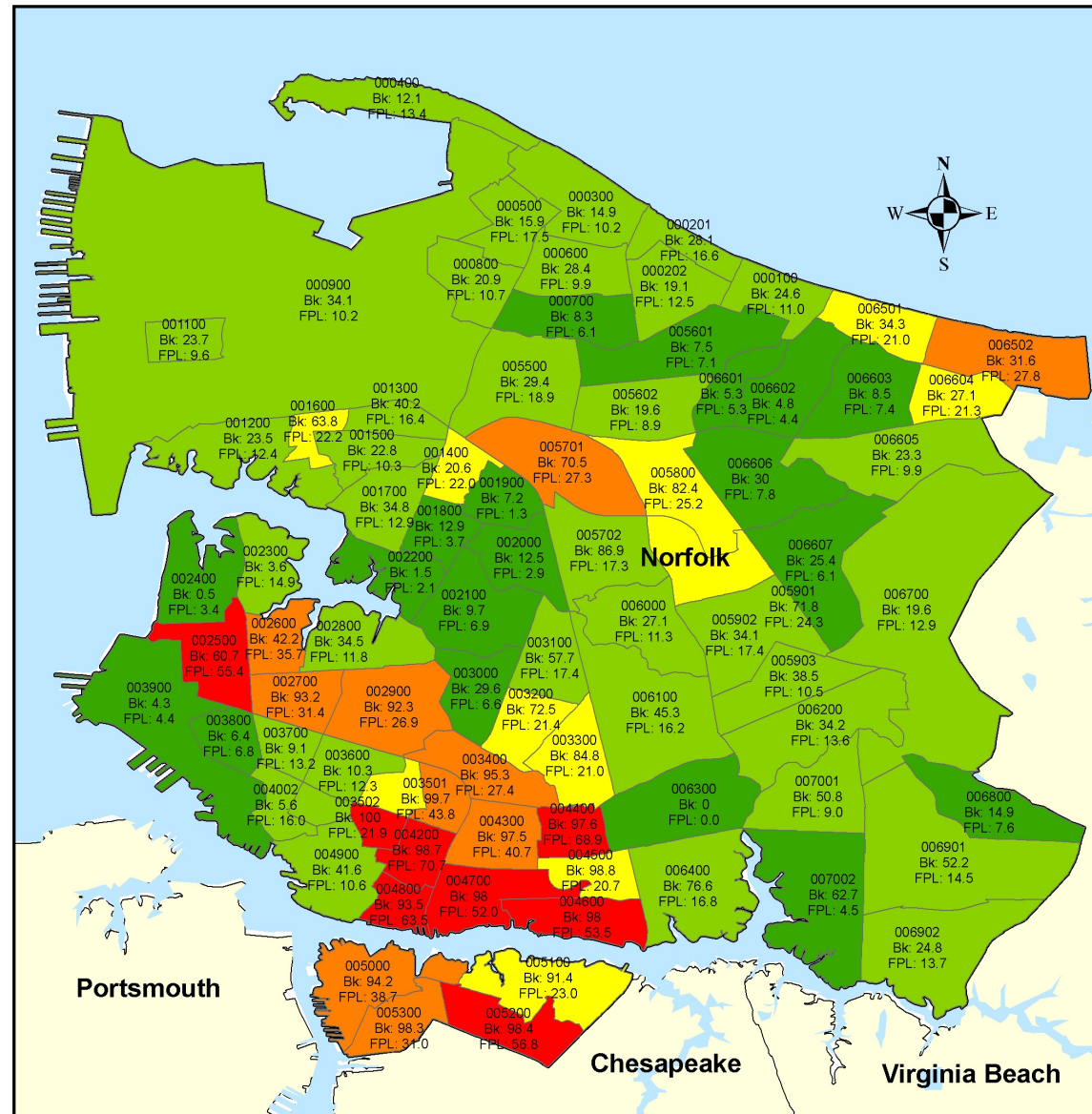
**% population below  
Federal Poverty Level (FPL)**



A Medically Underserved Area (MUA) designation within a metropolitan area must have a Rational Service Area (RSA), which consists of census tracts of homogeneous demographic (race) and/or socioeconomic (poverty) characteristics that differ significantly from contiguous census tracts.




In Norfolk, there are three non-contiguous RSAs based on race [Black population (Bk) over 70%] and/or poverty [population over 20% Federal Poverty Level (FPL)]. This maximizes the area that qualifies for MUA designation. A reduction in either of these criteria yields a higher Index of Medical Underservice (IMU) Score that would jeopardize the designation.

Demographic data are from Census 2000 and for MUA regulations see:  
<http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/shortage/muaguide.htm>



# NORFOLK, VA

## Primary Care Physician (PCP)\* Distribution

-  Fort Norfolk  
(36.856547, -76.304963)
-  PCP Practice Site  
(may represent more than one PCP)
-  Pending MUA Census Tracts

\* Primary Care Physicians include non-Federal doctors of medicine (M.D.) and doctors of osteopathy (D.O.) providing direct patient care who practice principally in one of the four primary care specialties -- general or family practice, general internal medicine, pediatrics, and obstetrics and gynecology.

Physician data was obtained from the Virginia Board of Medicine. Phone survey verification of current practice sites have only been completed for Pending MUA Rational Service Areas.  
(<http://www.vahealthprovider.com/>)





# NORFOLK, VA

Medically Underserved Area (MUA)\*

- Pending MUA Census Tracts
- Areas that do not meet MUA criteria
- Previous MUA Census Tracts that no longer qualify

\* MUA designations require a well-defined Rational Service Area (RSA), and an Index of Medical Underservice (IMU) Score below 62.

For computational methodology see:  
<http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/shortage/muaguide.htm>.



# HRSA Proposed Designation Rules and the Determination of High Priority Target Areas

- HRSA variables

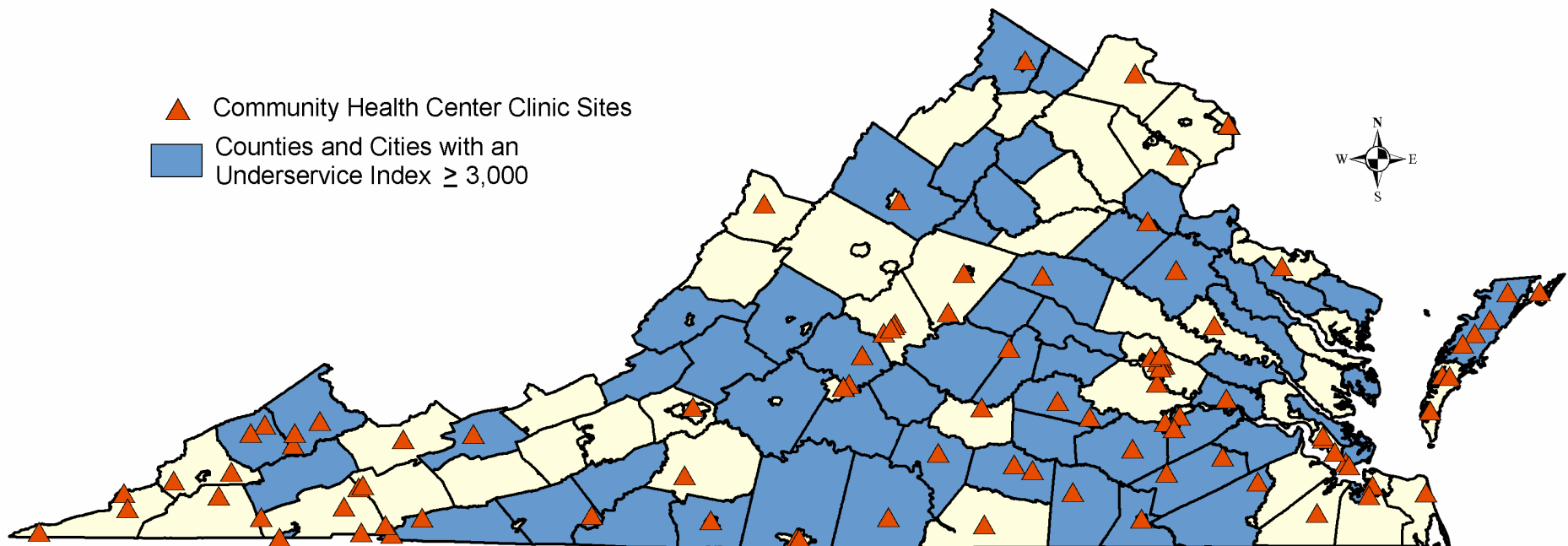
Demographic	Economic	Health Status
Percent non-White	Percent population <200% FPL	Actual/expected death rate
Percent Hispanic	Unemployment rate	Low birth weight rate
Percent population >65 years		Infant mortality
Population density		

- Additional variables can be considered, such as: linguistic isolation, distance to services, fiscal stress, etc.

# Impact Analysis I: Proposed Designation Rules

## Underserved\* Counties and Cities in Virginia Based on HRSA's Proposed Designation Criteria

4-08-08



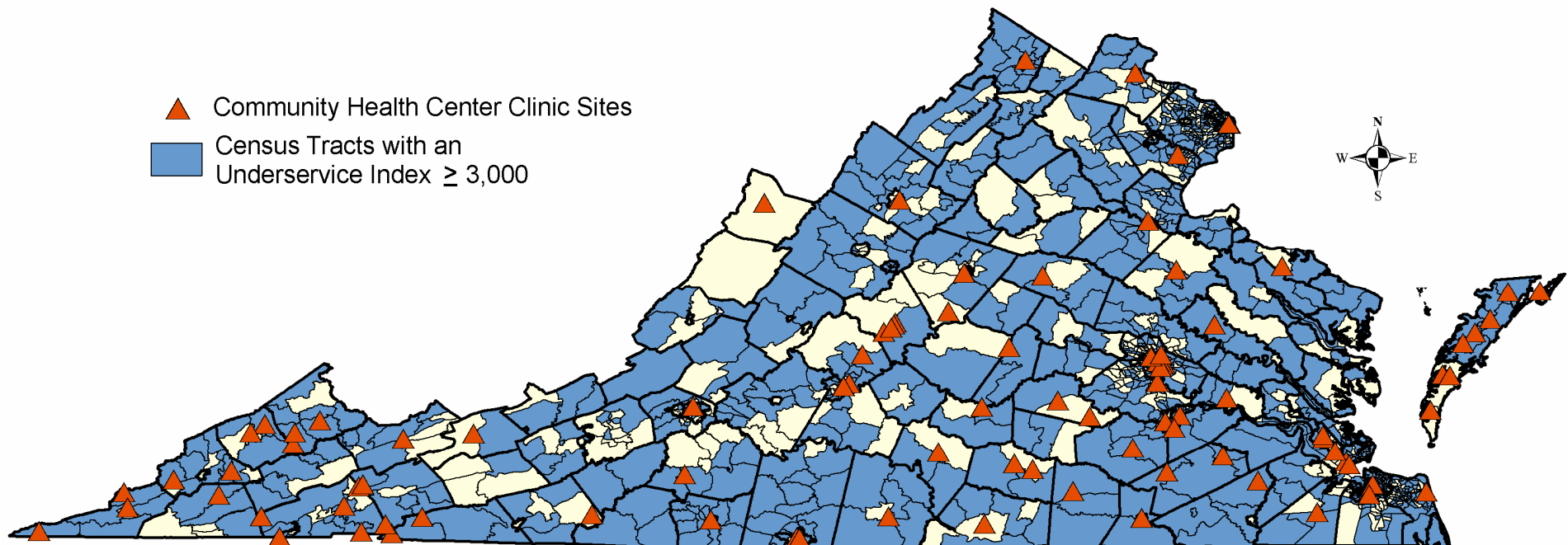
\* The proposed designation criteria calculates an Underservice Index, which is composed of an adjusted population-to-provider ratio and a total score from various demographic, economic, and health status factors. For areas to be considered underserved, they must be defined as a rational service area, be limited (either by distance or overutilization) from contiguous primary care resources, and the Underservice Index must be equal to or greater than 3,000.

For more detailed discussion see: <http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/shortage/hpsafrn022908.htm>.

# Impact Analysis I: Proposed Designation Rules

## Underserved\* Census Tracts in Virginia Based on HRSA's Proposed Designation Criteria

4-08-08

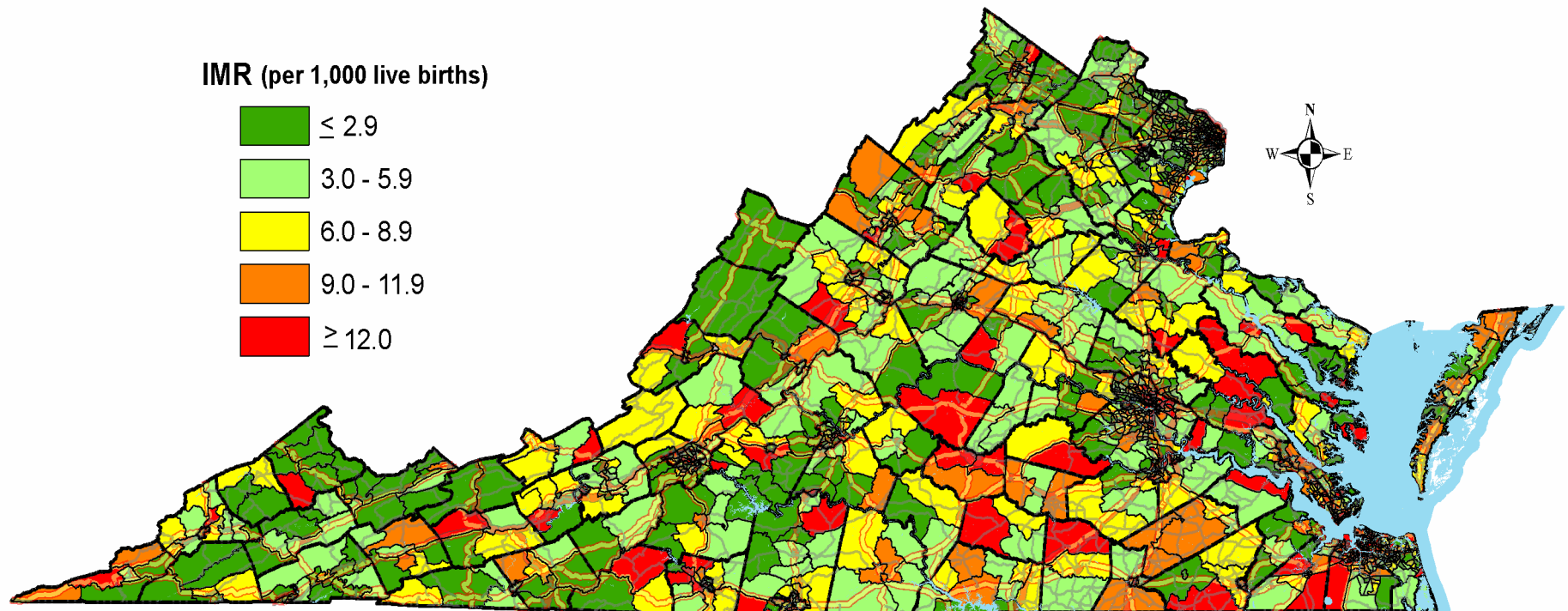


\* The proposed designation criteria calculates an Underservice Index, which is composed of an adjusted population-to-provider ratio and a total score from various demographic, economic, and health status factors. For areas to be considered underserved, they must be defined as a rational service area, be limited (either by distance or overutilization) from contiguous primary care resources, and the Underservice Index must be equal to or greater than 3,000.

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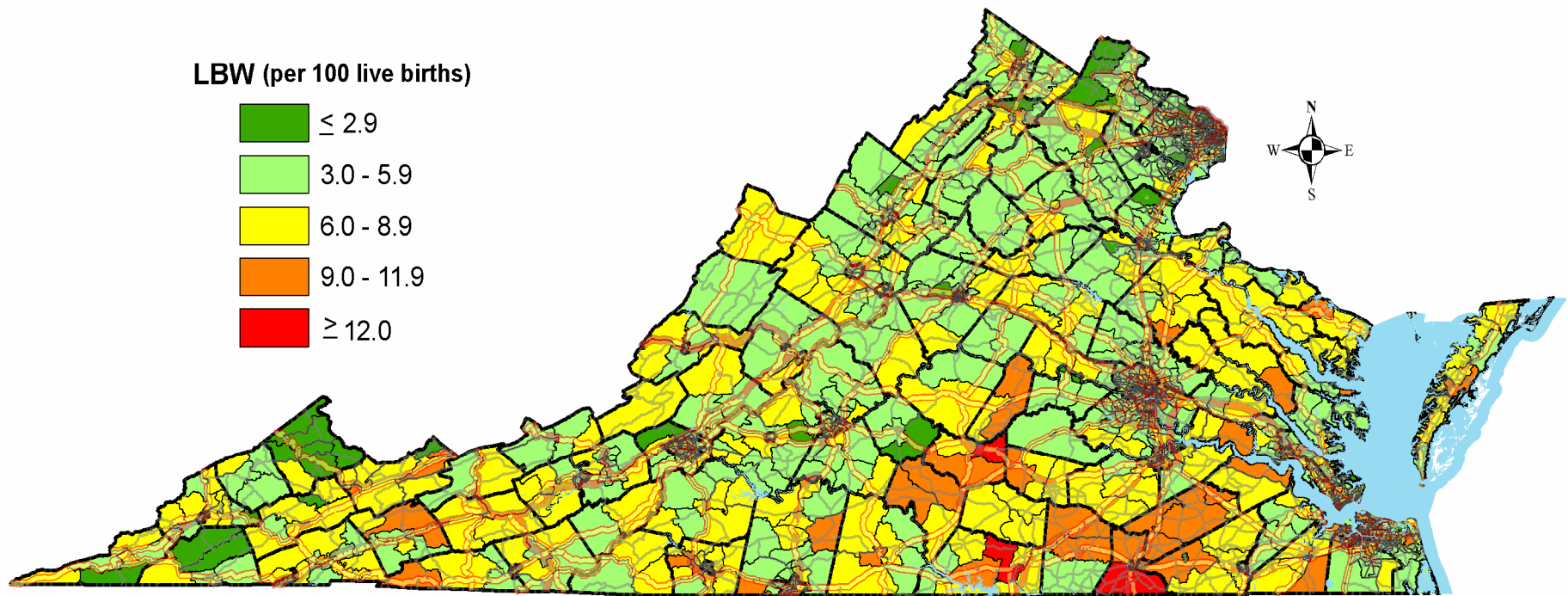


## Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) by Census Tract, 1996-2005



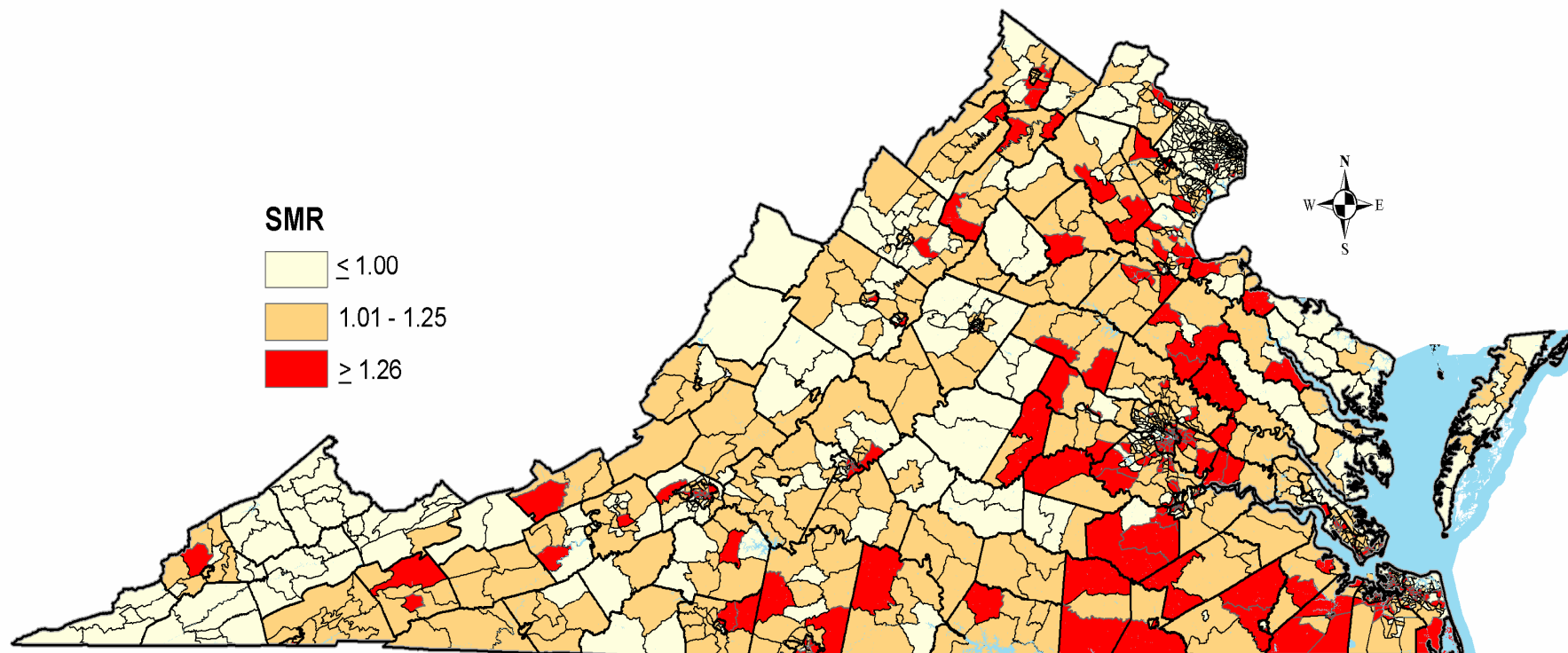
Source: VDH Vital Statistics, (1996-2005, geocoding error rate= 10%); Data consists of singleton births for mothers aged 15-44 years.

## Low-Birth Weight Rate (LBW) by Census Tract, 1996-2005



Source: VDH Vital Statistics, (1996-2005, geocoding error rate= 10%); Data consists of singleton births for mothers aged 15-44 years.

## Standardized Mortality Ratio (SMR)\* by Census Tract, 2001-2005



\* SMR = observed/expected death ratio. Sources: Observed deaths-- (VDH Vital Statistics, 2001-2005; geocoding error rate= 10%); Expected deaths-- (US Census 2000, Summary File 1, P12) and (CDC- National Center for Health Statistics, 2005 age-specific death rates).

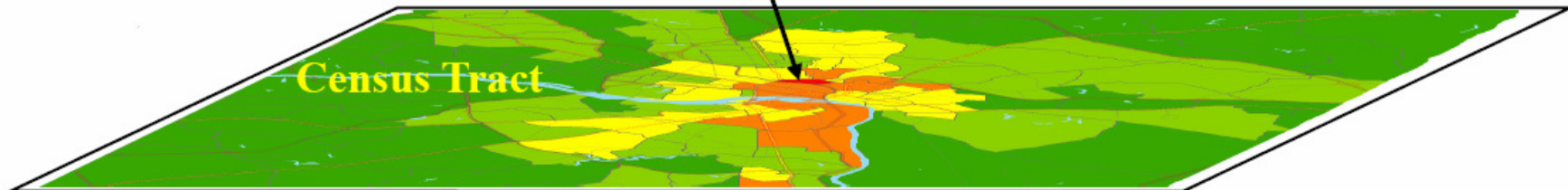
# Multi-Level Analysis & Reframing the Question

# Multilevel Spatial Analysis of Fundamental Causes & the Social Determinants of Health

Statewide by City/County



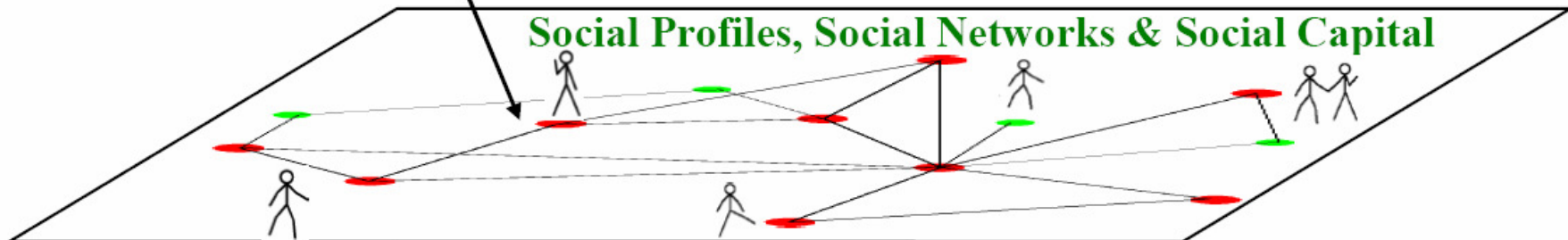
Census Tract



Census Block Group



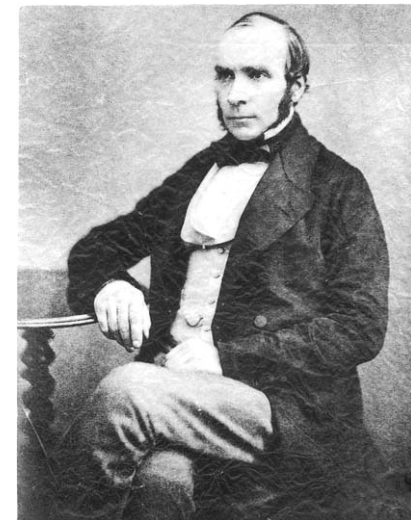
Social Profiles, Social Networks & Social Capital





# John Snow, Father of Spatial Epidemiology

Map of Cholera Epidemic  
1854

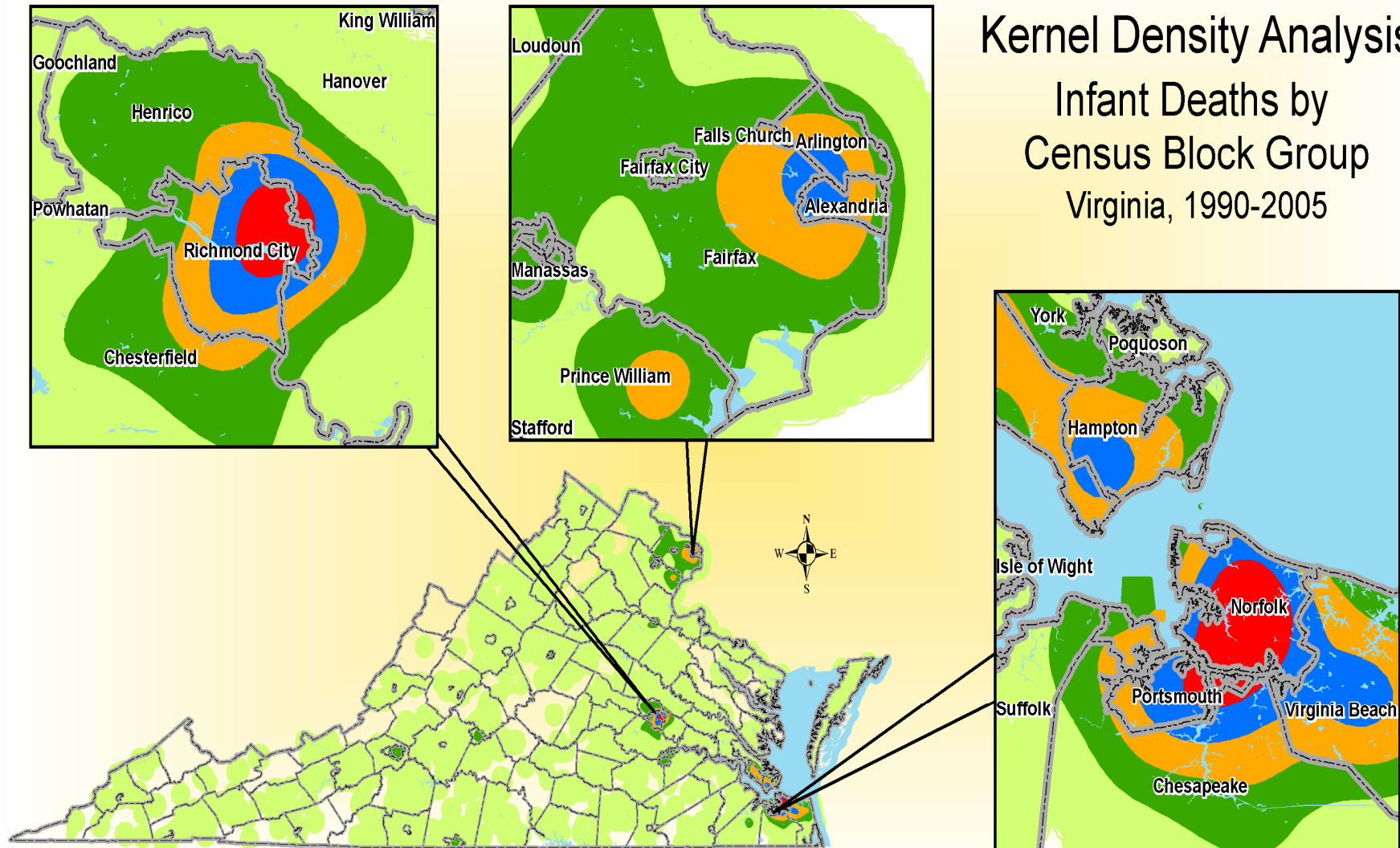


# Infant Deaths by Census Block Group, 1990-2005

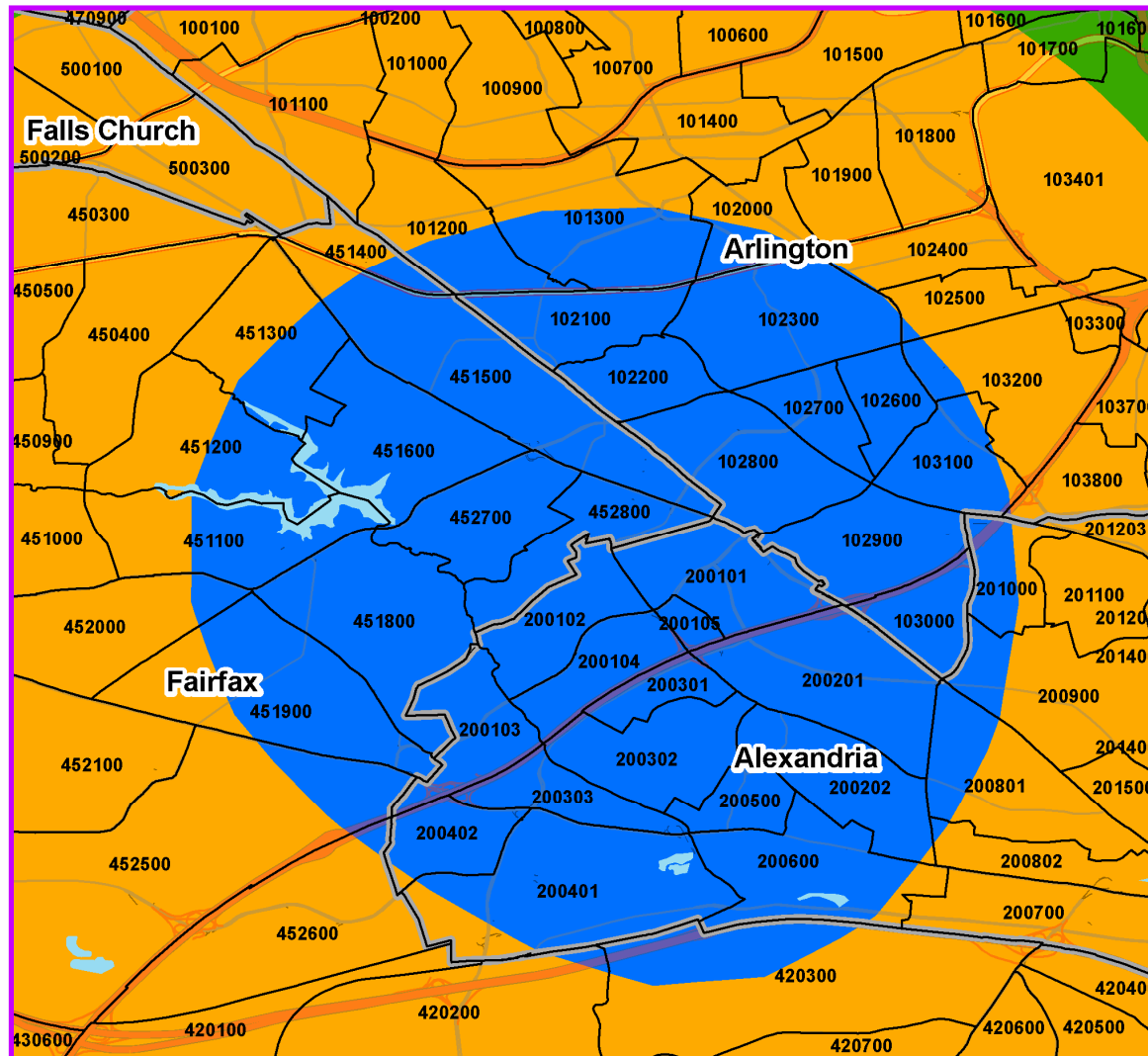




# Kernel Density Analysis Infant Deaths by Census Block Group Virginia, 1990-2005

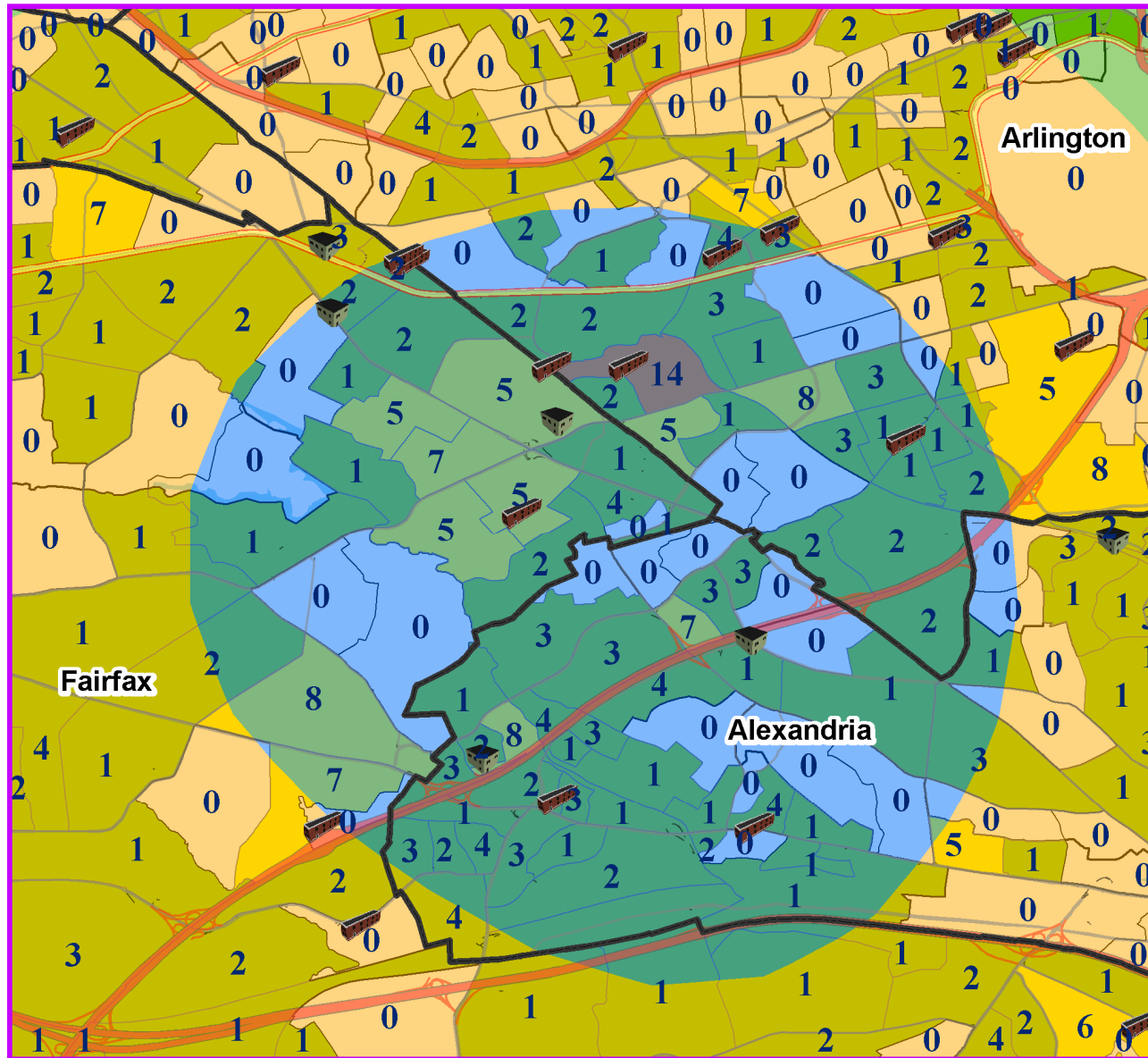


# NOVA Census Tracts with High Infant Mortality



Source: VDH Vital Statistics, 1990-2005.

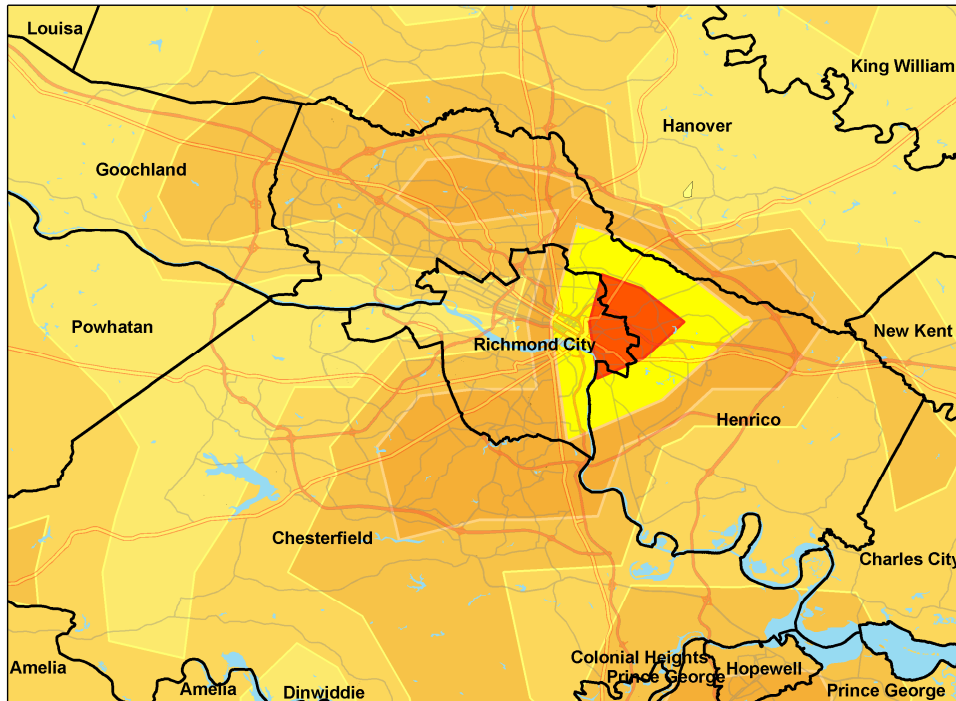
# NOVA Infant Deaths per Census Block Group



Source: VDH Vital Statistics, 1990-2005.

# Predictive Kriging Analysis

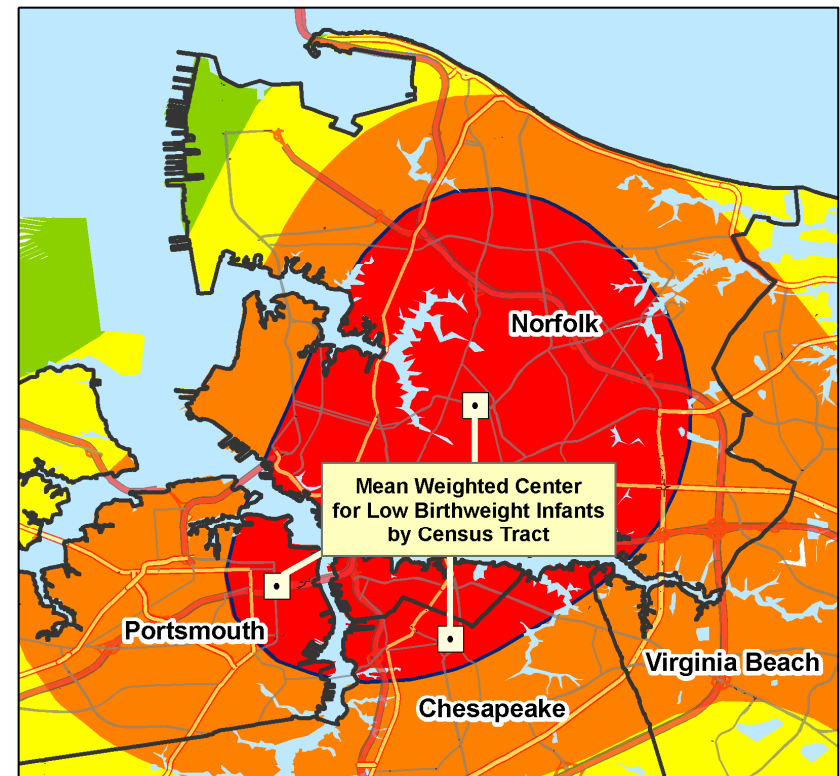
Infant Deaths by Block Group



Source: VDH Vital Statistics, 1990-2005.

# Kernel Density Analysis

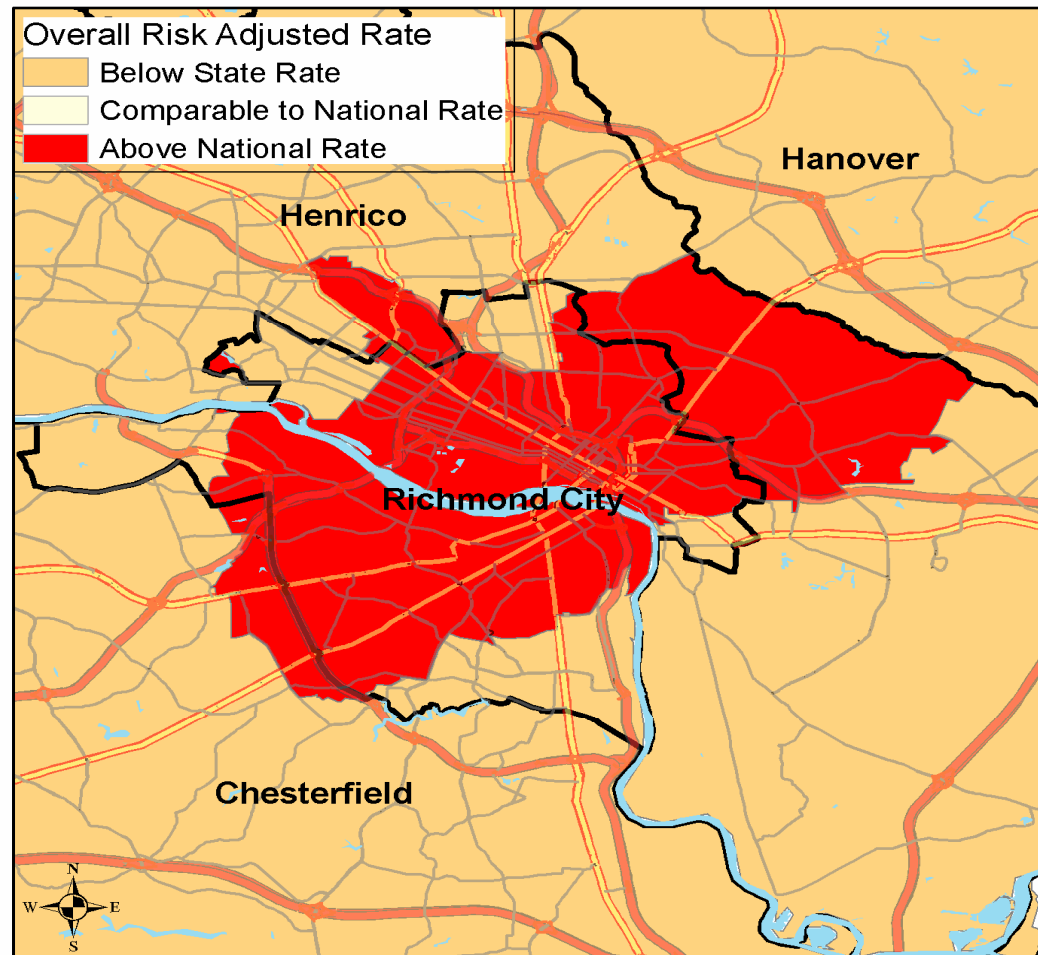
Low Birth-weight Infants  
based on Census Tract Data with  
Optimum Locations for Clinics



Source: VDH Vital Statistics, 1996-2005.

# Prevention Quality Indicator – Overall Composite

(Includes all PQIs except Low Birth Weight and Perforated Appendix)  
Based on Virginia Hospital Discharge Claims, VHI 2006



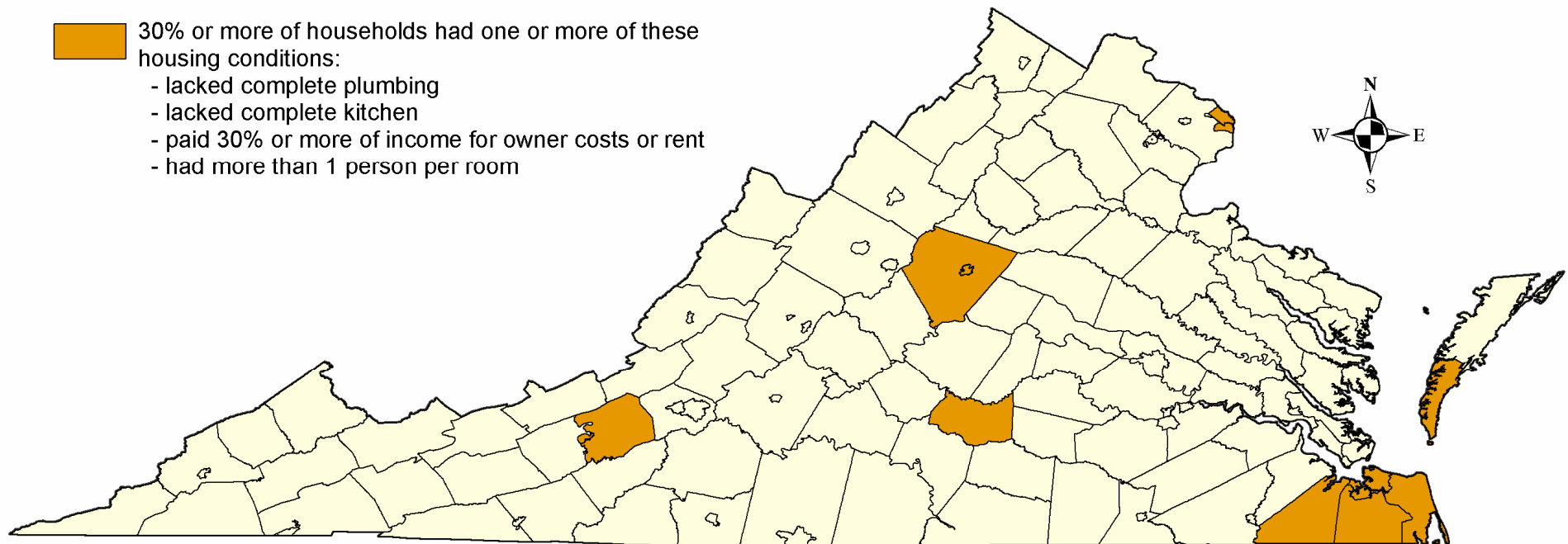
National Rate (per 1,000\*) 18.79\*\*; State Rate (per 1,000\*) 14.68.

\*Population - 18 years or older. State rates calculated by zip code.

\*\*Source: Nationwide Inpatient Sample, 2004, AHRQ Website:  
<http://www.qualityindicators.ahrq.gov>

# Analysis of Spatially Referenced Data: Levels of Aggregation

# Housing Stress Virginia Counties

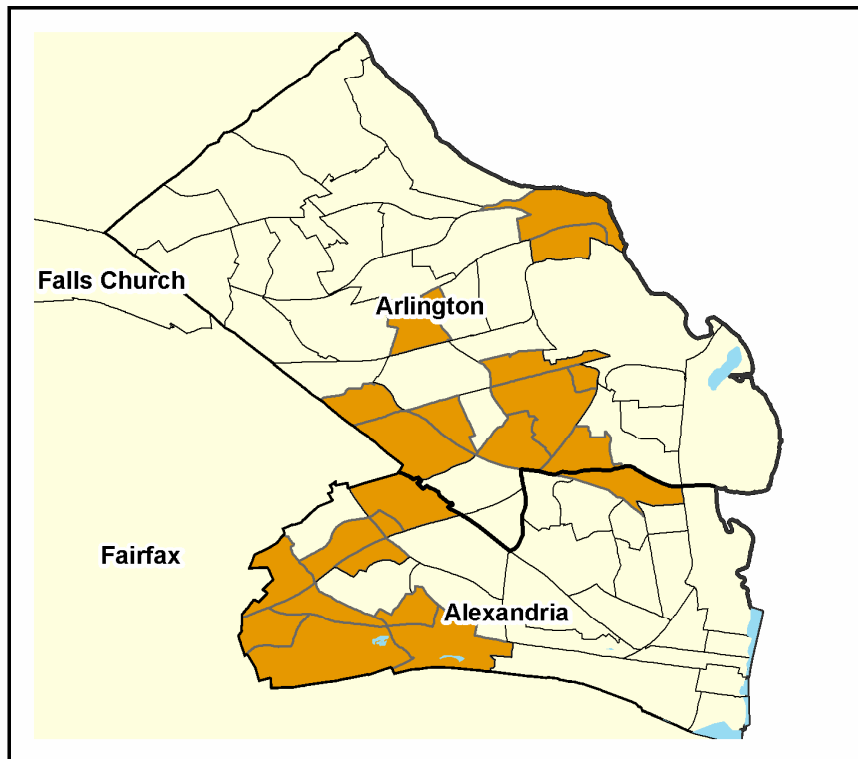


Source: United States Department of Agriculture: Economic Research Service, 2004 County Typologies.

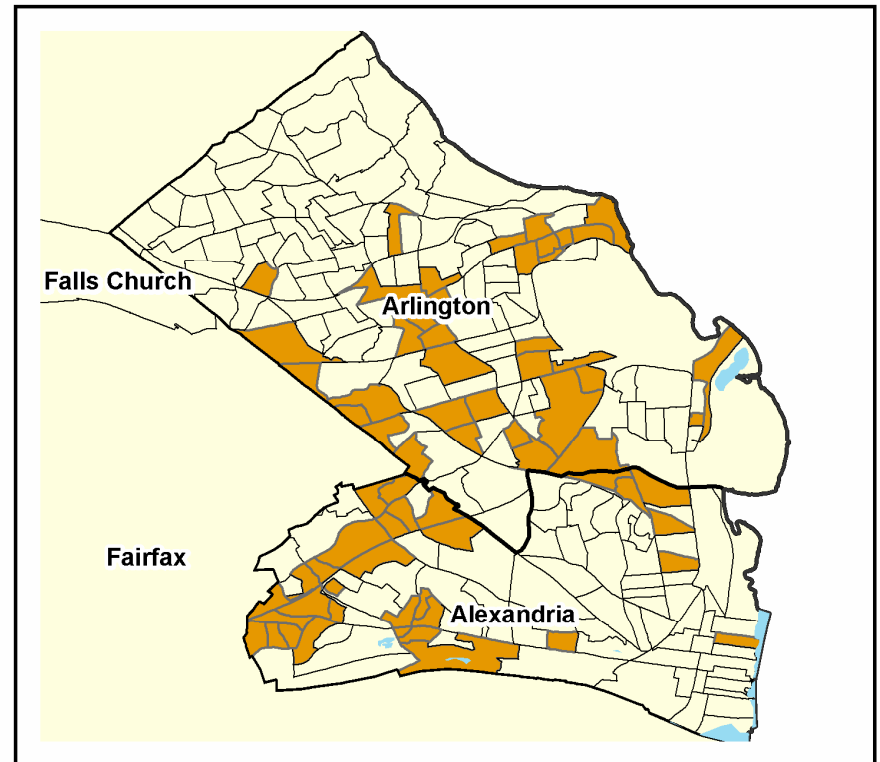


# Housing Stress Arlington County and Alexandria City

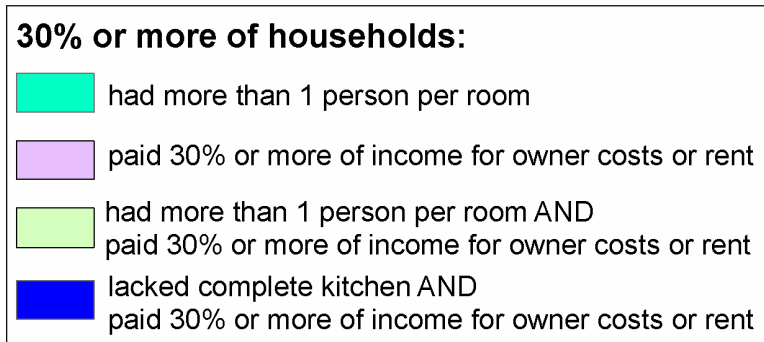
## Census Tract Level



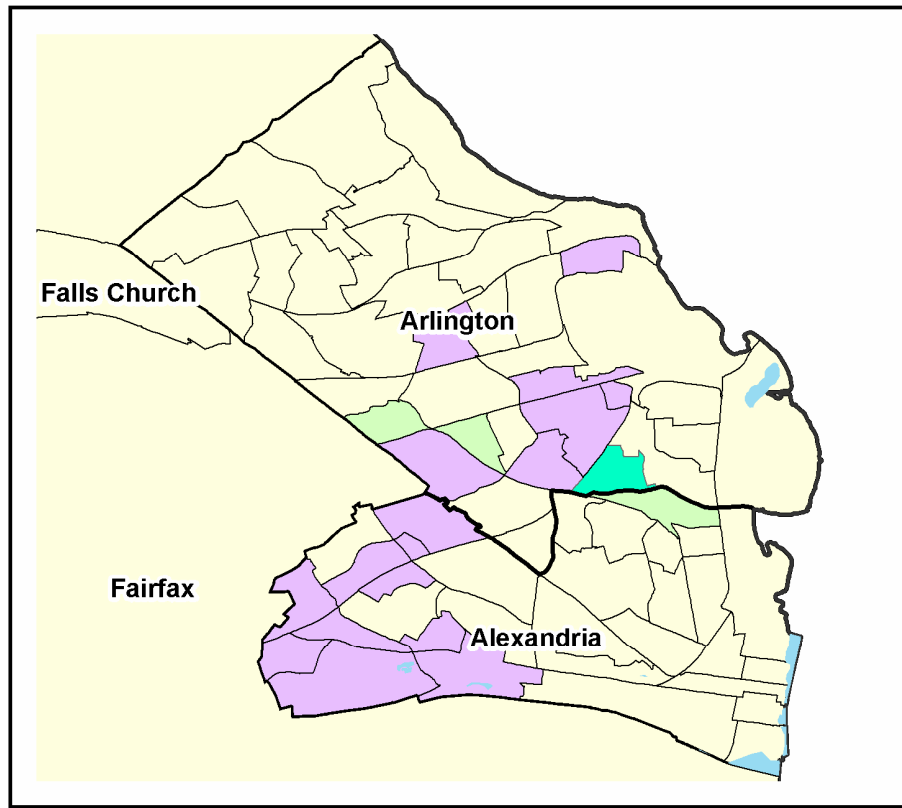
## Block Group Level



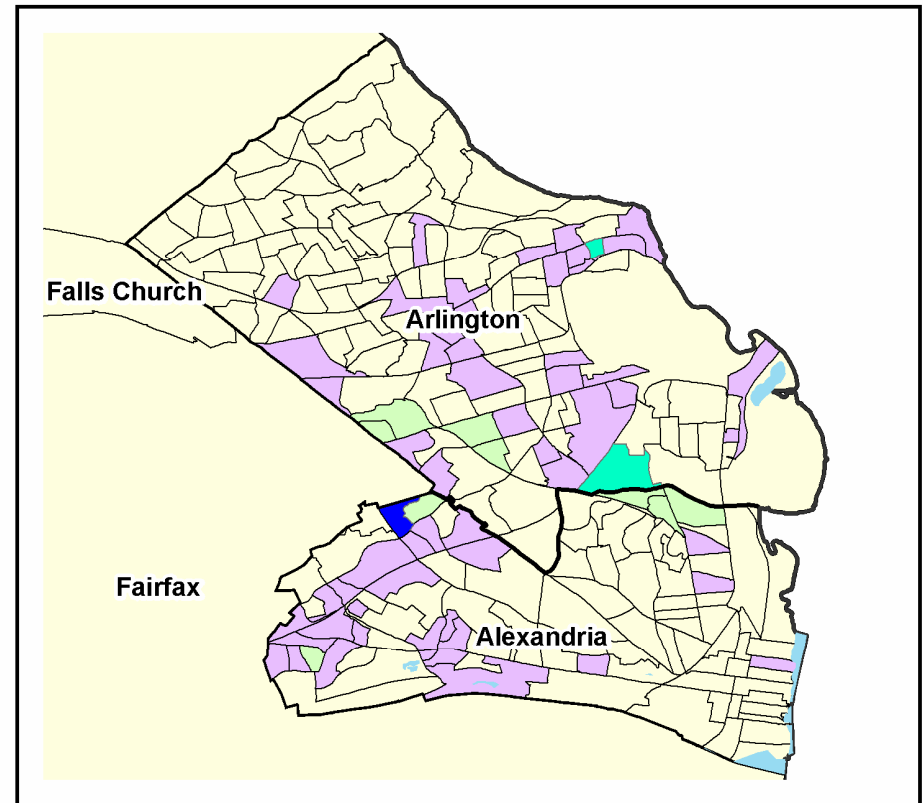
Source: Census 2000, SF3; H20, H47, H50, H73, H97.



## Census Tract Level




## Block Group Level

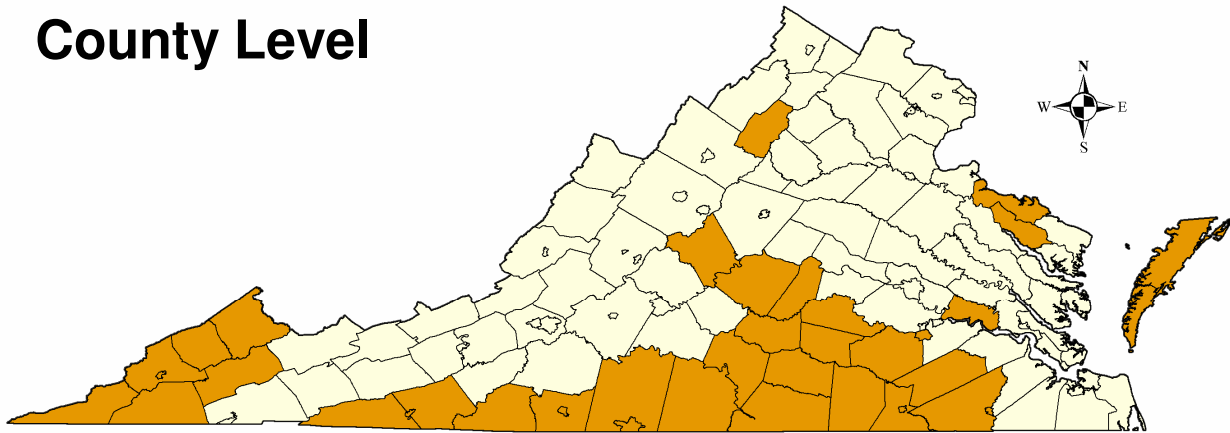


Source: Census 2000, SF3; H20, H47, H50, H73, H97.

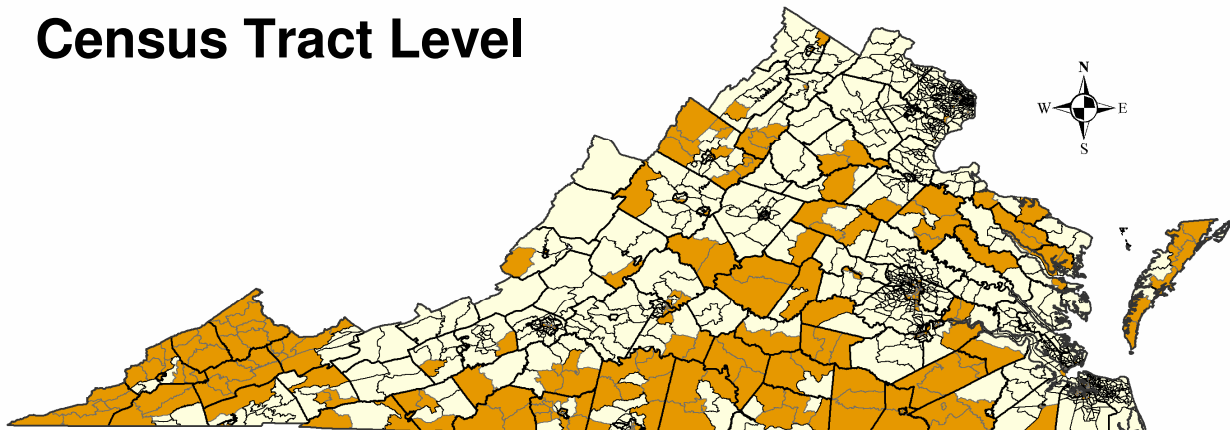
# Low Education in Virginia

 25% or more of residents 25-64 years old had neither a high school diploma nor GED

## County Level



## Census Tract Level



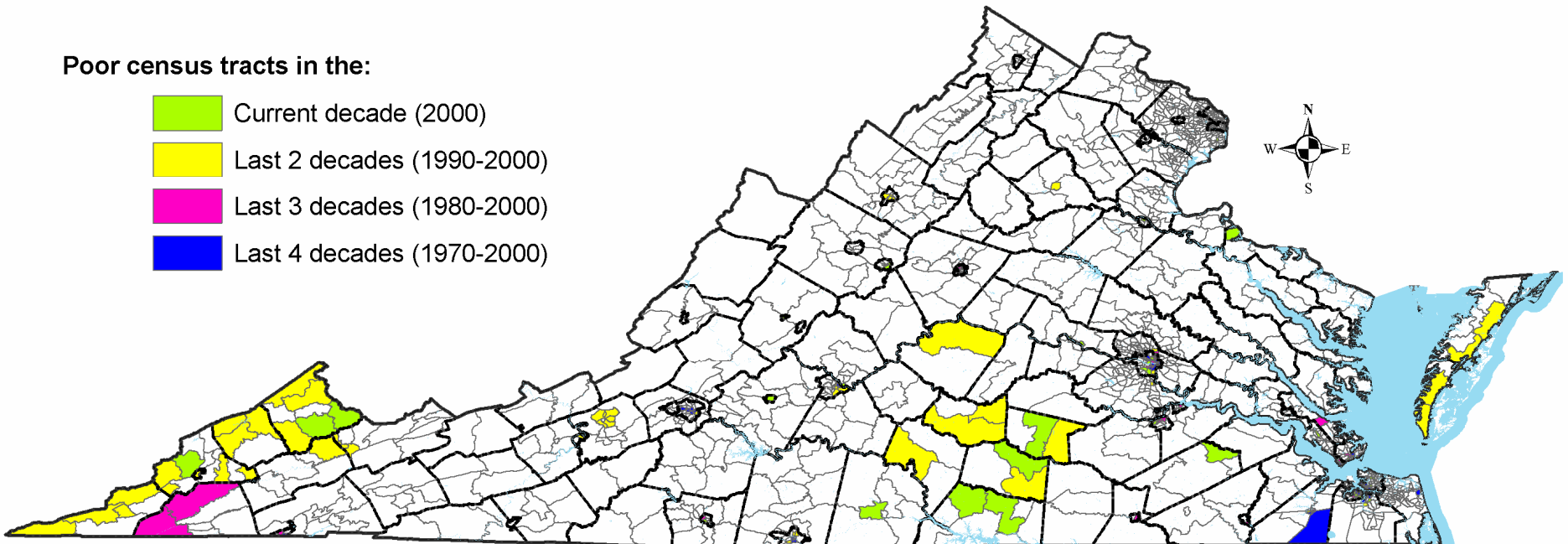
Source: United States Department of Agriculture: Economic Research Service, 2004 County Typologies; Census 2000, SF3-PCT25.

# “Persistency” as a Social Variable

# The History of Poor Census Tracts\* in Virginia 1970-2000

Poor census tracts in the:

-  Current decade (2000)
-  Last 2 decades (1990-2000)
-  Last 3 decades (1980-2000)
-  Last 4 decades (1970-2000)



\* Poor census tracts--20 percent or more residents were below the federal poverty level as determined by the US Census.

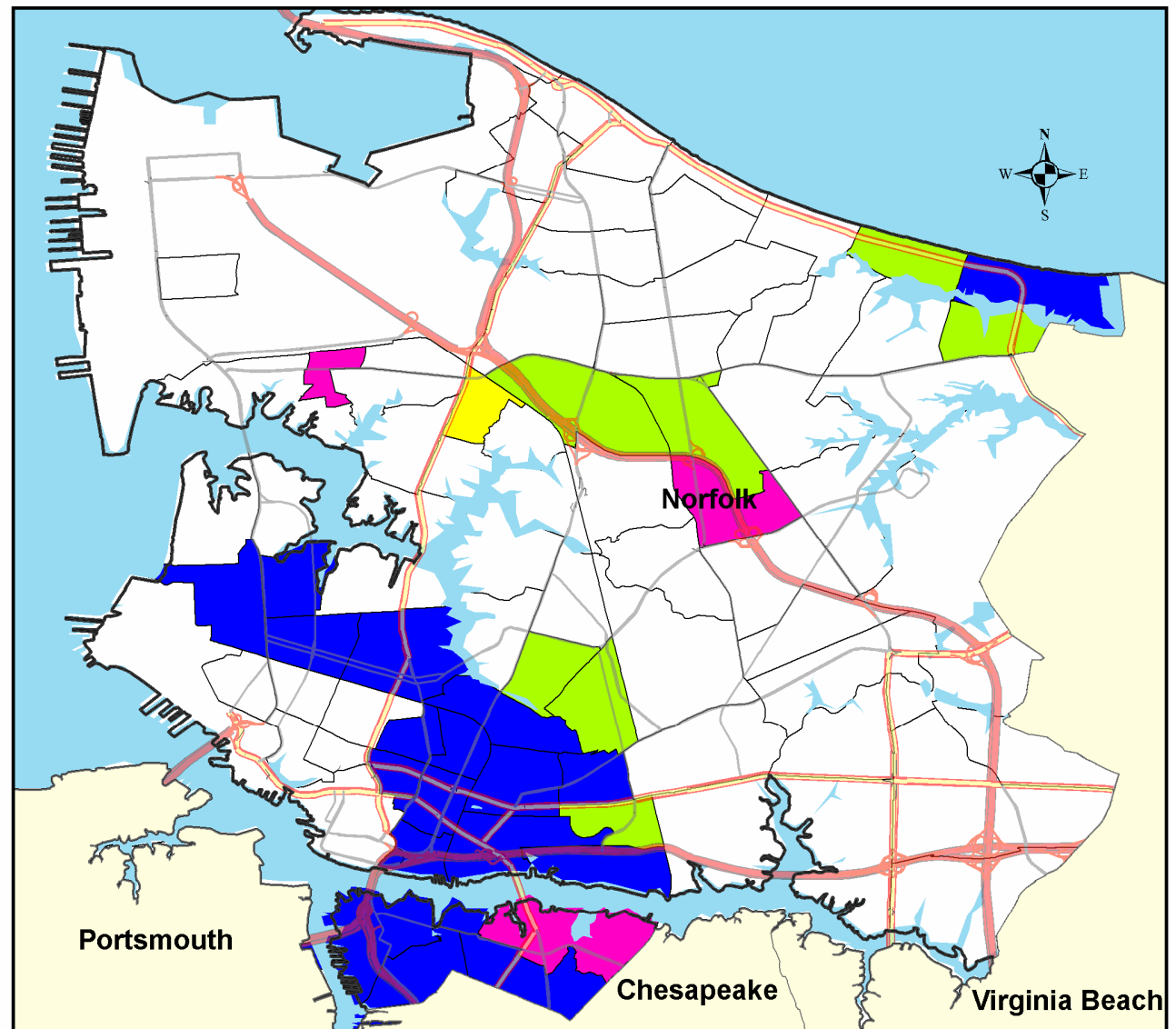
Source: Neighborhood Change Database: Geolytics, Inc. Neighborhood Change Database 1970-2000 Tract Data Long Form Release 1.1 [CD-ROM]. Brunswick, NJ: Geolytics, Inc. [Producer and Distributor], 2004. 1970, 1980, and 1990 census tracts were normalized to Census 2000 boundaries.

# The History of Poor Census Tracts\* Norfolk City, Virginia 1970-2000

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-  Current decade (2000)
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\* Poor census tracts--20 percent or more residents were below the federal poverty level as determined by the US Census. [1970, 1980, and 1990 census tracts normalized to Census 2000 boundaries]



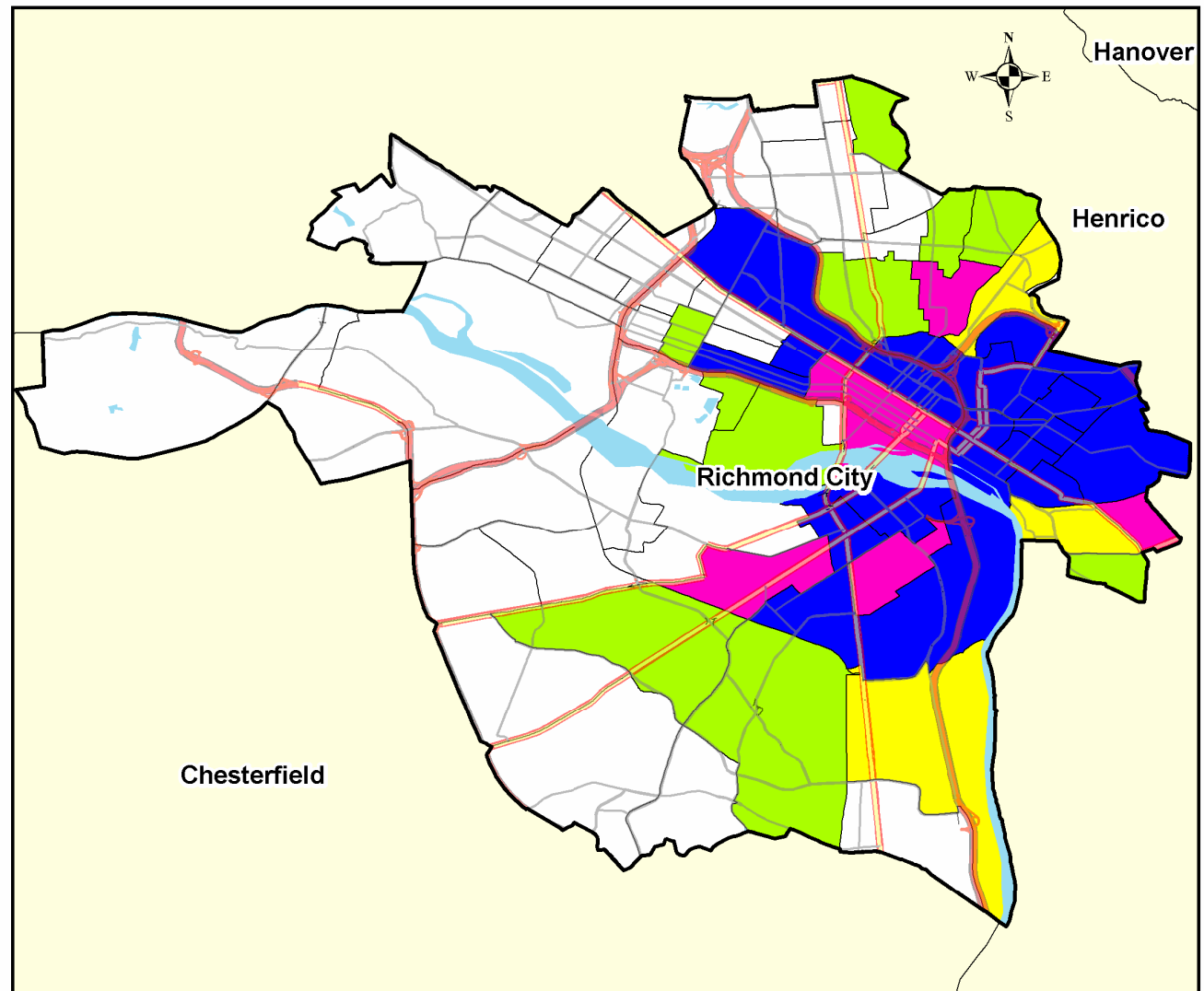
Source: Neighborhood Change Database: Geolytics, Inc. Neighborhood Change Database 1970-2000 Tract Data Long Form Release 1.1[CD-ROM]. Brunswick, NJ: Geolytics, Inc. [Producer and Distributor], 2004.

# The History of Poor Census Tracts\* Richmond City, Virginia 1970-2000

Poor census tracts in the:

- Current decade (2000)
- Last 2 decades (1990-2000)
- Last 3 decades (1980-2000)
- Last 4 decades (1970-2000)

\* Poor census tracts--20 percent or more residents were below the federal poverty level as determined by the US Census. [1970, 1980, and 1990 census tracts normalized to Census 2000 boundaries]



Source: Neighborhood Change Database: Geolytics, Inc. Neighborhood Change Database 1970-2000 Tract Data Long Form Release 1.1[CD-ROM]. Brunswick, NJ: Geolytics, Inc. [Producer and Distributor], 2004.

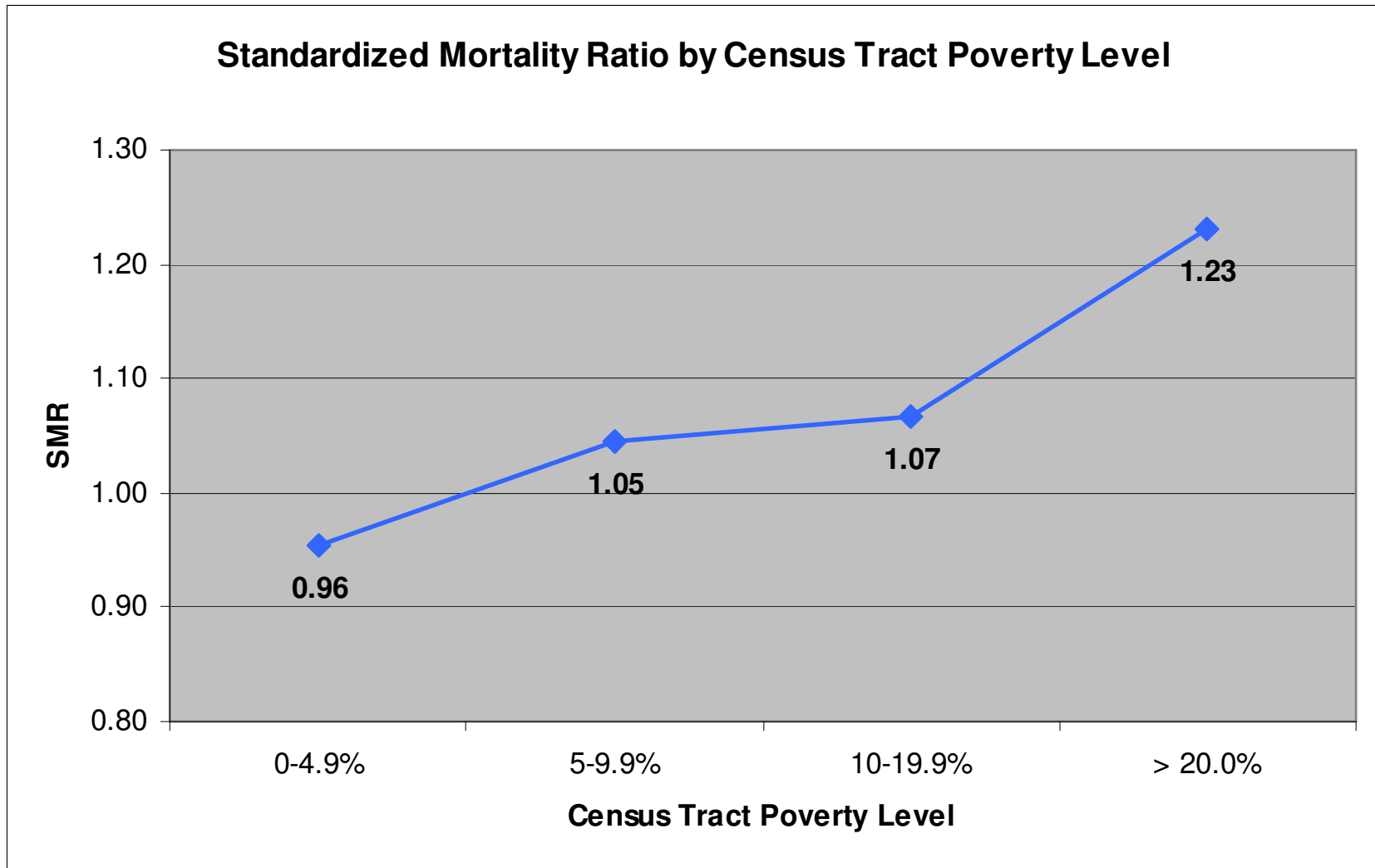


# Analysis of Spatially Referenced Data: Locational Analysis

## Distribution of Infant Deaths, by Race/Ethnicity\* and Census Tract (CT) Poverty, 1996-2005

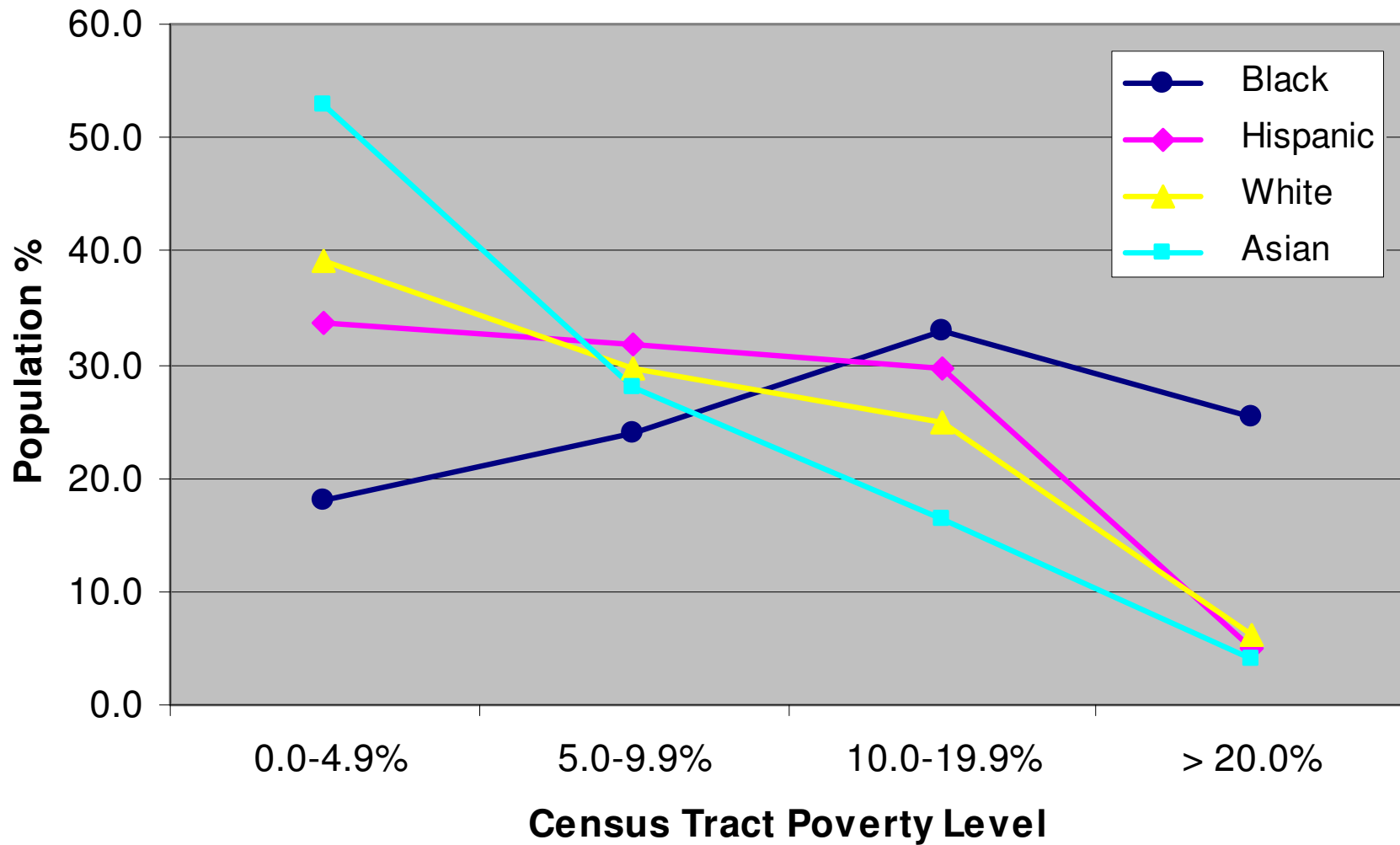
				% Distribution by CT Poverty Level											
Total				0.0-4.9%			5.0-9.9%			10.0-19.9%			≥ 20.0%		
	births (n)	deaths (n)	IMR	births (n)	deaths (n)	IMR	births (n)	deaths (n)	IMR	births (n)	deaths (n)	IMR	births (n)	deaths (n)	IMR
Total	870,558	5,217	6.0	321,464	1333	4.1	252,239	1,395	5.5	211,169	1,496	7.1	85,686	993	11.6
White	541,796	2,442	4.5	233,427	823	3.5	164,142	772	4.7	119,704	675	5.6	24,523	172	7.0
Black	194,544	2,190	11.3	32,517	306	9.4	46,859	432	9.2	59,437	668	11.2	55,731	784	14.1
Hispanic	78,124	354	4.5	25,620	104	4.1	25,615	118	4.6	23,188	110	4.7	3,701	22	5.9
Other	56,094	231	4.1	29,900	100	3.3	15,623	73	4.7	8,840	43	4.9	1,731	15	8.7

\* White and Black classifications are for non-Hispanic only. Rate calculations are based on birth and death data that geocoded correctly, 90%. Data consists of singleton births and mothers aged 15-44 years.

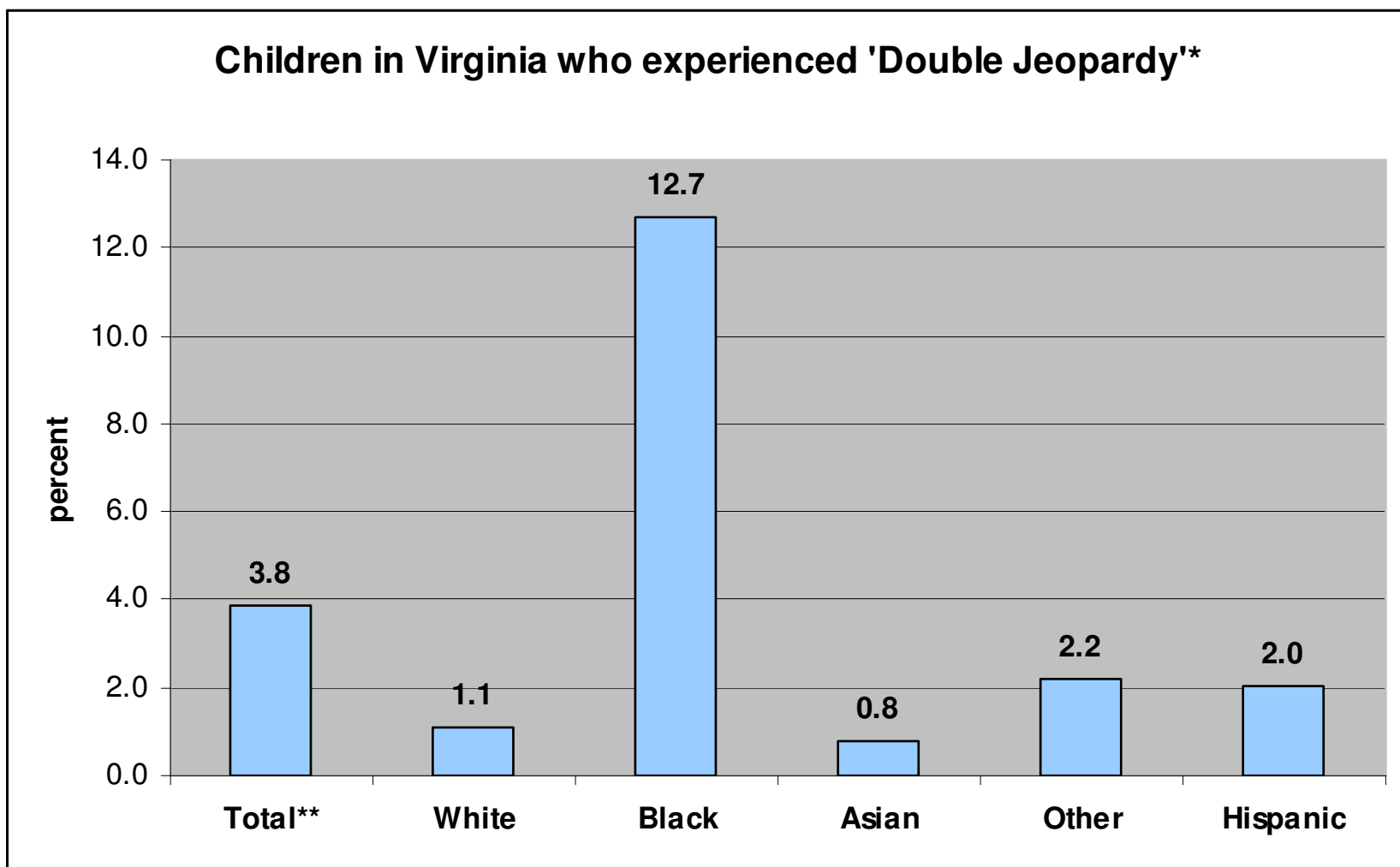


Observed death data were obtained from VDH Vital Statistics, (2001-2005, geocoding error rate= 10%); Expected death data were calculated from Census 2000 data (SF1, P12) and 2005 age-specific death rates (CDC- National Center for Health Statistics).

## Distribution of Population by Race/Ethnicity and Census Tract Poverty Level, Virginia 2000



Source: US Census 2000; poverty (SF3, P87); race (SF1 P7); Hispanic ethnicity (SF1 P4).



Double Jeopardy describes children (under 18 years old) that live in poor families and in poor neighborhoods. Poor neighborhoods are defined as census tracts (CTs) with greater than 20.0% poverty. The racial categories include persons of Hispanic and non-Hispanic origin; 'Other' includes American Indian, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander, some other race alone, and two or more races. \*\*Total number of children living below the federal poverty level reflects the sum of the four racial categories since Hispanic ethnicity could not be determined for each race. Source: Census 2000, SF3, P159.



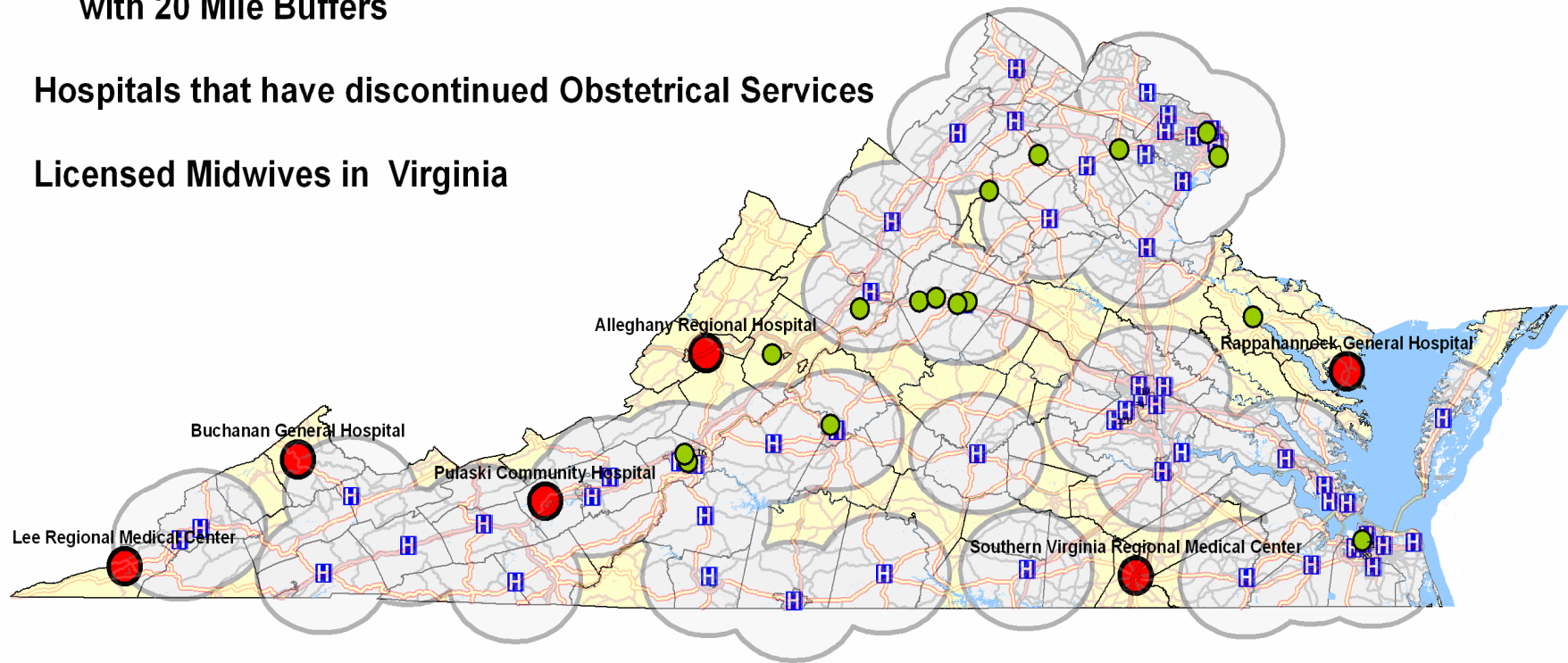
# Analysis of Spatially Referenced Data: Various Service Area Analyses

# Access to Obstetrical Services in Virginia

 Location of Virginia Hospitals with Obstetrical Services with 20 Mile Buffers

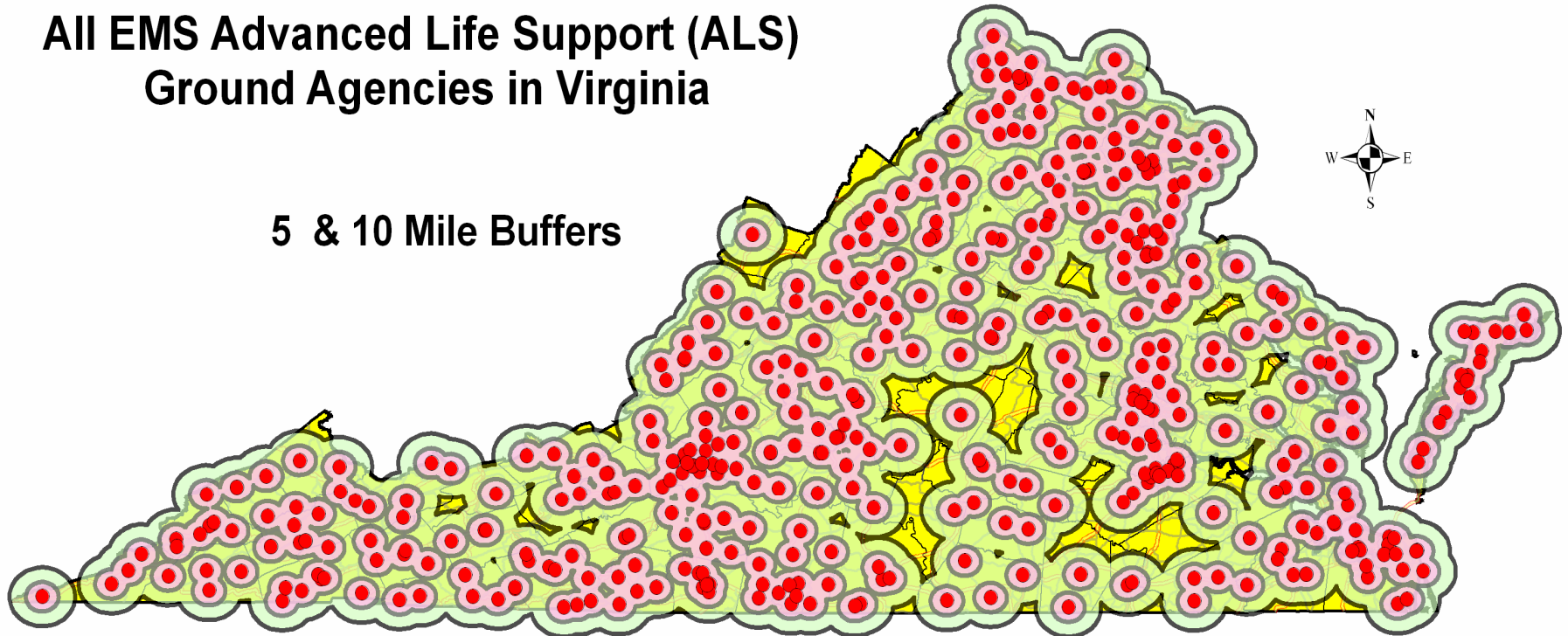
 Hospitals that have discontinued Obstetrical Services

 Licensed Midwives in Virginia



## All EMS Advanced Life Support (ALS) Ground Agencies in Virginia

5 & 10 Mile Buffers

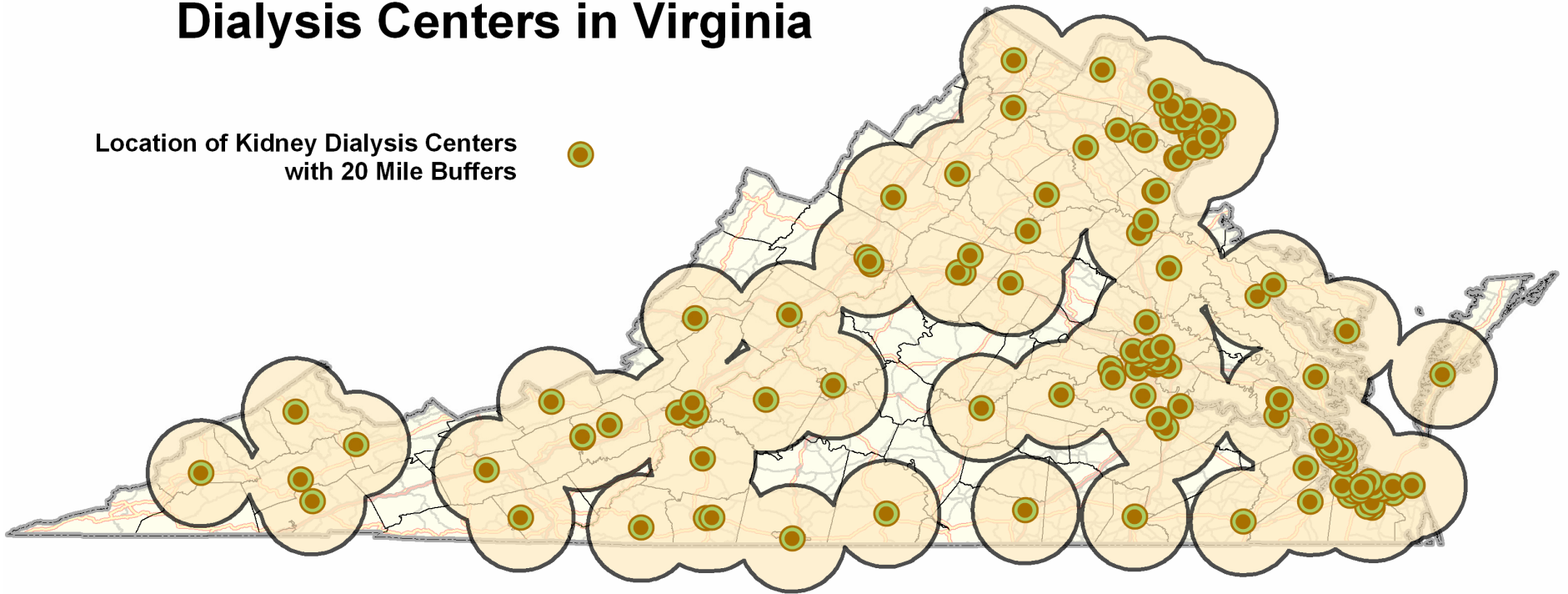


Virginia Population, Households and House Units Served by Advanced Life Support EMS						
	Population	% Population	Households	% Households	House Units	% House Units
Virginia	7,078,515	100.0	2,699,173	100.0	2,904,192	100.0
10 Mile Buffer	7,027,030	99.3	2,679,964	99.3	2,880,274	99.2
5 Mile Buffer	6,065,495	85.7	2,319,543	85.9	2,480,667	85.4

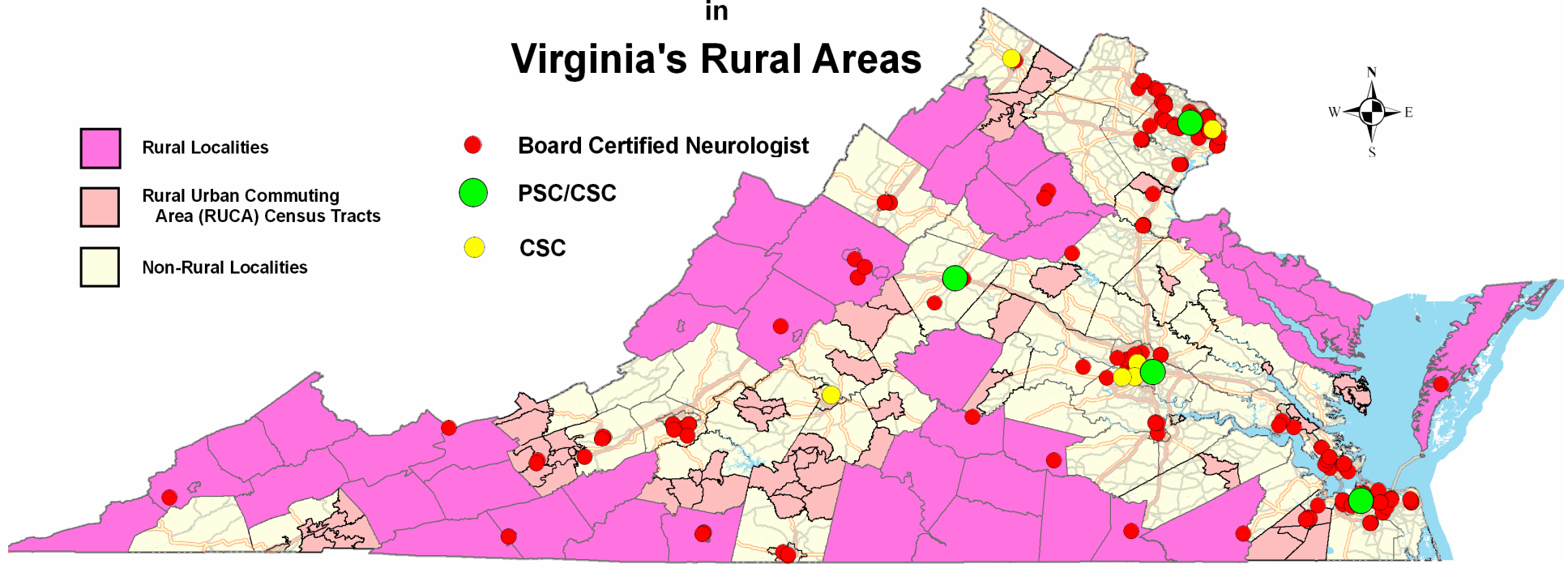
# Service Area Analysis

## Dialysis Centers in Virginia

Location of Kidney Dialysis Centers  
with 20 Mile Buffers

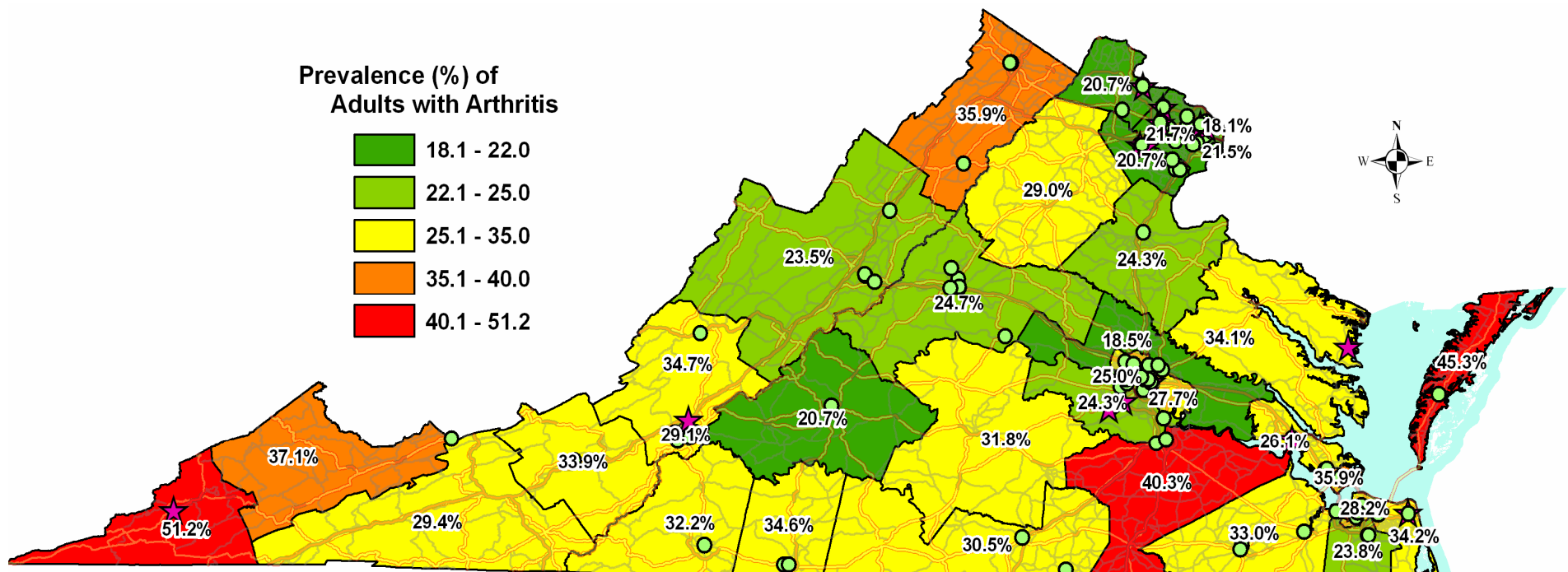


# Distribution of Board Certified Neurologists Primary Stroke Centers (PSC) & Comprehensive Stroke Centers (CSC) in Virginia's Rural Areas



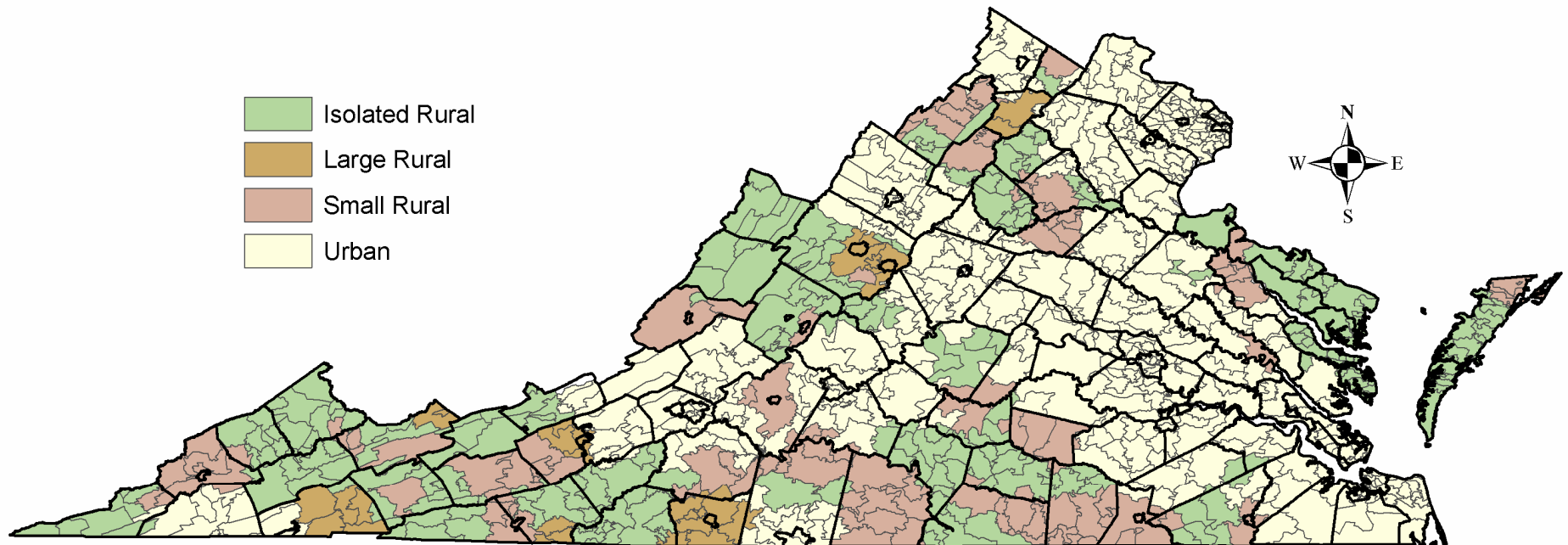


# Prevalence of Arthritis (BRFSS, 2005) in Adults 18 & Over in Virginia's Local Health Districts



# Isolated Rural Areas\* in Virginia

Over 60 minutes travel time from an Urbanized Area

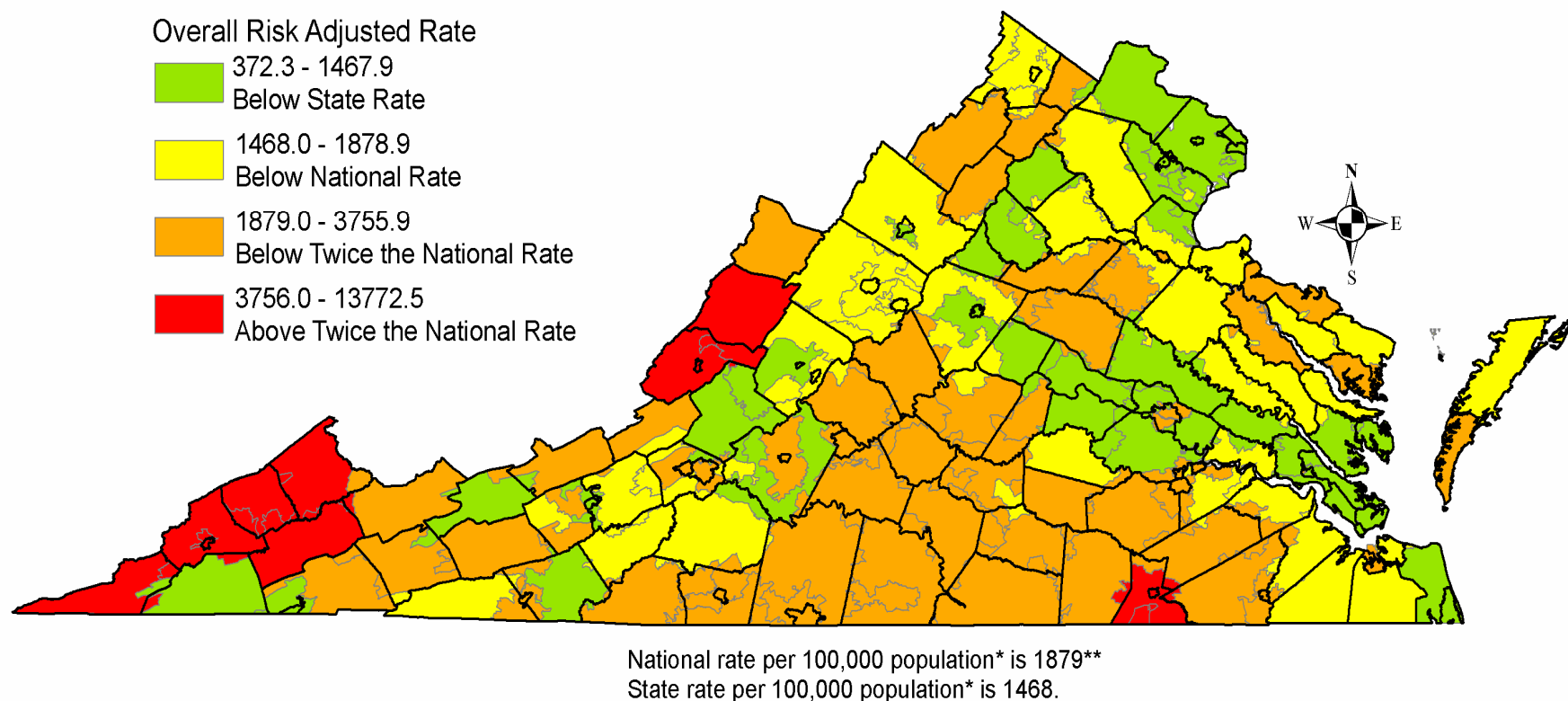


\* Based on Rural Urban Commuting Codes, RUCA 2.0 - Zip Code Level.

# Prevention Quality Indicator - Overall Composite Measure

(Includes all PQIs except Low Birth Weight and Perforated Appendix)

VHI, 2006



\*Population age 18 years or older. Rates calculated by zip code definitions of county-city.

\*\*Source: Nationwide Inpatient Sample, 2004, AHRQ Website: <http://www.qualityindicators.ahrq.gov>

# Current Projects

- Develop multi-level framework
  - Georeferenced Health Data
  - High Priority Target Areas
    - Statewide identification of areas in crisis
  - Models of Care
    - Needs assessment for non-traditional models of care
  - Multivariate analysis using spatial regression
    - Distance, cost analysis for services and sentinel events
  - Longitudinal Studies
    - Neighborhood Change Database (Census 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000)
  - PRIZM NE database
    - Lifestyle and social marketing data
  - Claritas Demographics 2007 and 2008
    - Census tract, block group, and zip code level